Global Assessment of the National System of Official Statistics of the Republic of Armenia

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PREFACE

The Global Assessment of the National System of Official Statistics of the Republic of Armenia (the Assessment) was jointly undertaken by the European Commission (Eurostat), European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The Assessment process was initiated in response to the request by the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia (NSS) to the UNECE made in September 2008.

The assessment is based on an extensive review performed during the two Assessment missions. The first mission took place during 21 – 27 January 2009; the assessor team included Mr. Anton Steurer, Mr. Arvydas Andreikenas and Ms. Alina Milasiute (all from Eurostat), Mr. Heinrich Brüngger, Mr. Petteri Baer and Ms. Tiina Luige (all from UNECE), as well as Mr. Jan Byfuglien from Norway/EFTA. Many internal and external partners were met, partly in parallel meetings (see Annex 1). Some written material was also made available by the National Statistical Service (NSS) in advance or during and after the visit. The second mission during 31 March – 2 April 2009 included Mr. Arvydas Andreikenas, Ms. Alina Milasiute, Mr. Petteri Baer, Ms. Tiina Luige, and Mr. Jan Byfuglien and collected information to complete the final Assessment report and draw conclusions.

Major written inputs to this evaluation were the Law on State Statistics of the Republic of Armenia, Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC) on Data Module for the Republic of Armenia by International Monetary Fund (IMF Country Report No. 09/50, February 2009) and Armenia 2008 Compliance Monitoring Report prepared by the NSS. The first Assessment mission was also prepared through replies to the questionnaire sent out in advance to the NSS, covering main institutional formal and practical issues.

The assessment team very much appreciates the well-prepared visits and the openness of the communication both with the staff of the National Statistical Service and with the representatives from other partner and stakeholder organisations. We hope that the Assessment will be of benefit to the further development of the National System of Official Statistics of the Republic of Armenia.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The main goal of the Assessment was to evaluate the level of conformity vis-à-vis the accepted international and European standards, incorporating the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and European Statistics Code of Practice, as well as Eurostat 2008 Statistical Requirements Compendium.

2. Detailed objectives of the Global Assessment were the following:

    a. To assess the compliance of the Armenian NSS with international standards, norms, and recommendations, as well as the administrative capacity of the country in the field of statistics;

    b. To assess the institutional aspects of the national statistical system and its technical and organisational capacity to produce and disseminate official statistics in all relevant areas;

    c. To assess the compliance level of the NSS with the European statistical requirements and to identify the areas where the adoption of the *acquis communautaire* is a relevant objective;

    d. To prepare recommendations regarding the prospective fields of co-operation within future technical assistance programmes of international organisations and other cooperation partners.

3. The main conclusions on institutional environment are the following:

    a. The professional independence of the NSS is established in the Law on State Statistics; the NSS has a good record in defending its independence.

    b. The NSS has a strong and clear mandate for collecting data, including the data from administrative sources.

    c. Statistical confidentiality is well protected in the Law on State Statistics; rules and procedures are in place to ensure good practices.

    d. Overall, the NSS, if considering the central office together with regional offices and contractual employees, is staffed relatively well. However, available financial resources put serious limits on the development and renewal of the IT equipment which in turn reduces the efficiency of the staff.

    e. The NSS has a clear commitment to ensure consistently high data quality; however, the data collection methods need to be developed. Lack of a quality management and training system, as well as insufficient resources in the regional offices remain challenges in this context.

    f. The NSS is committed to effectively address user needs. The dissemination via internet has developed substantially over the recent years; however, the user-friendly access to data and a pro-active dissemination policy should be developed further.

g. The NSS follows good impartiality and objectivity practices in compiling and disseminating statistics, as well as in treating users equally and in applying a public release calendar.

h. The NSS has a strong coordination role within the national system of statistics and produces around 70 – 80 percent of the official statistics of Armenia.

4. The assessments concerning the coverage and quality of the main statistical subject areas are the following:

a. In general, the NSS has a large and timely production of statistics, the best parts of which are based on a register-oriented approach combined with statistical surveys.

b. Classification systems used are broadly consistent with international guidelines; further development work is foreseen.

c. Many key demographic indicators are being produced and disseminated but some improvement is necessary, especially concerning migration statistics and the modernisation of the production system.

d. The 2001 Population Census was an important event; planning and funding of the next population census is a major challenge.

e. Within the field of labour market statistics, some of the most important indicators are being produced; however, establishing a regular labour force survey is a major challenge due to insufficient funding.

f. Within the field of education statistics, a number of indicators are produced partly based on administrative data from the Ministry of Education and Science. Approximation to the European legislation in this area will be a major challenge.

g. The most central elements of health statistics are covered, partly based on administrative sources and partly based on specific health surveys, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. Approximation to European standards will require development work.

h. The Armenian national accounts are in many areas compliant with ESA95; however, some non-compliant areas remain, in particular regarding exhaustiveness.

i. A number of price indices are produced and disseminated by the NSS. Some improvements, however, are necessary: consumer price index should cover owner-occupied dwellings, weights for construction price index should be updated, and the work on improving producer price indices should continue.

j. Work has been done in improving the quality of construction statistics; however, unlicensed construction remains an issue for the sector estimates.

k. The NSS maintains and regularly updates the statistical business register which also incorporates information from administrative registers. The strategy to establish a comprehensive cross-checking and updating of the business register has been developed.

l. Transport statistics is quite well developed for parts of the sector but there is a need to improve data on road transport and on transport by private operators.

m. Statistics on a number of environmental indicators is compiled and disseminated with relatively few resources but further sector development (for instance, of accounting frameworks) is necessary.

5. The main challenges that should be further addressed through development actions are the following:

a. There is some ambiguity concerning the difference between state statistics and administrative statistics and, thus, also concerning the delimitation of the national statistical system and who the partners of the system are. This issue should be addressed at future revisions of the Law on State Statistics and through annual/multi-annual programming.

b. In principle, data collected for administrative purposes should be based on specific administrative legislation and never on the Law on State Statistics, even if in the latter access for statistical purposes always should be ensured. Further actions might still be necessary to ensure the application of this principle within some subject areas, such as agriculture and population registration.

c. Within the national statistical system, the NSS has a strong coordinating role, especially since the management of the NSS also acts as the State Council on Statistics with specific legislative power. The NSS also has regular contacts with the users and stakeholders through the development of Annual and Three-Year State Statistical Work Programmes. The NSS should evaluate further ways and means on how to develop the regular consultations with users, respondents, and other stakeholders.

d. The rather fragmented organisation with numerous very small units provides a challenge in relation to training, development of new projects, and quality management, especially as internal mobility (apart from real promotions) is, due to administrative rules, made practically impossible. This issue should be seriously addressed because it produces artificial barriers for normal development of human resources.

e. Insufficient and outdated IT equipment also makes efficient use of existing human resources difficult and hampers productivity. Thus, a better balance in the budget between human and other resources should be considered.

f. The role of regional offices should be reconsidered. Implementation of new technological solutions and changes in survey structure should be examined.

g. There is a clear need for developing a much more proactive dissemination strategy by providing more user-oriented data on the web, including improved metadata, better access to printed publications, and more efficient communication with users, as well as more frequent use of press conferences and other user-oriented services.

h. In order to promote evidence-based decision making and trust in state statistics, activities to increase statistical literacy among different user groups should be undertaken.

i. There is a need to review the survey structure, possibly by expanding the use of sample surveys, and to ensure better coordination between surveys, moving from stove-pipe information collection practices into more corporate ones, in order to reduce response burden.

j. The work on supporting the development of administrative data sources and registers should be enhanced in close cooperation with relevant authorities and with a proper legal basis. The most pressing issues are related to the farm register which is a basis for the agricultural census, as well as to the population register combined with address register and geo-coding. Both are of great importance for the work on the 2011 population census. Furthermore, a unique identifier for enterprise units should be introduced in the field of business registration.

k. Improved financing of the statistical activities is important and thus more possibilities in the use of external funding should be opened up, which might require changes in general public sector financial rules and regulations in Armenia.

l. Finally, in most subject areas some improvement actions are proposed in the detailed Assessment Report. Key areas for expected improvements are the following:

    i. Price indices: consumer, production and - especially - the construction price indices,

    ii. Exhaustiveness of national accounts and quarterly accounts,

    iii. Building up statistical registers.

Global Assessment of the National System of Official Statistics of the Republic of Armenia

1. LEGAL BASIS

1.1. Overview

1. The Law on State Statistics in Armenia from 2000 is a sound legal basis for a system of official statistics in a modern society characterised by democracy and market economy (the English text of the Law is presented in Annex 2). The elements of the model law developed by Eurostat in the 1990s for the transition countries are clearly recognizable. The Law on State Statistics has allowed the National Statistical Service (NSS) to implement and adhere to a very strict policy of fully respecting the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) and those parts of the European Statistics Code of Practice that are directly related to these principles such as professional independence, impartiality and confidentiality. In view of the experience of other transition countries, it is not always obvious that the above principles, which imply a complete change in the approach to official statistics in use before the end of centrally planned economies, are strictly upheld in practice against pressure by ministries or powerful interest groups even if stated in law: in Armenia, the strict and coherent policy of the top management of the NSS, since the Law has entered into force, has paid off and is now widely accepted. This is a great asset for maintaining and strengthening the trust in official statistics regarding both users and respondents.

2. A sound Law on State Statistics and the compliance with it by all actors of the system is a necessary but in itself not yet a sufficient condition for an efficient statistical system. In other words, a high degree of implementation of the law does not necessarily mean that those aspects that are not directly addressed in the law itself are fully up to modern standards. For some of these missing aspects, a more explicit reference in the law may contribute to highlight their importance and accelerate their implementation. For some others, such as the quality management, the legal element is unlikely to be essential.

3. The Law on State Statistics in its current form has a large number of strong points, such as:

    a. Most of the FPOS are included in the Law on State Statistics as requirements for state statistical activities;

    b. The principles of professional independence, impartiality, and confidentiality are translated into strong institutional safeguards (for example, through provisions that protect the chief statistician during his/her term of office or clear provisions against the non-statistical use of data);

    c. The president of the NSS is appointed by the President of the Republic of Armenia, ensuring that the appointee has senior-level access to policy authorities, including the President of the Republic;

d. There is a clear legal mandate and basis for state statistics to collect data through surveys and censuses, as well as to use administrative data sources for this purpose with most surveys being mandatory for respondents;

e. State statistical activities have to be included in Three-Year and Annual State Statistical Work Programmes that are made public after being adopted by the Parliament and the State Council on Statistics ;

f. The State Council on Statistics as a legislator for secondary legislation in statistics ensures that decisions on statistical methodology, even with legal force, remain fully within the statistical system.

4. The points listed here are explicitly mentioned in the European Statistics Code of Practice, and the legal situation in Armenia is fully in line with these requirements. With the exception of access to administrative data sources, the *de facto* compliance of the NSS with these criteria is also fully satisfactory

1.2. Potential Ambiguity Areas in the Law on State Statistics

5. As laid down in the Law on State Statistics, the national system of official statistics of Armenia (NSOS) is composed of only two bodies: the NSS and the State Council on Statistics. The latter serves as the "supreme body of governance" and is composed of seven members. The president of the NSS is also the chairman of the Council, while the other six members of the Council are the *de facto* first layer of substantive responsibility in the NSS below the president.

6. In legal terms, the NSS is the only producer of 'state statistics' (the term used by the NSS that corresponds to the usual term 'official statistics') in Armenia. The constitution of the State Council on Statistics as a separate body is a legal construct that allows decisions on statistical methodology to obtain legal force without getting the Government involved, thus strengthening legitimacy without risking government interference into issues of professional independence.

7. However, several ministries and the Central Bank also produce and disseminate statistics, part of which can be considered as 'official statistics' but not legally speaking as 'state statistics'. While it is not advisable to consider all governmental statistical activities or statistical tables published by any government agency as official statistics, the distinction between state statistics and other statistics as it is currently handled in Armenia is neither clear nor, in many cases, efficient. In terms of the Law on State Statistics, this is translated into rather ambiguous provisions about the "other producers" with their "own bases of statistical information", and this ambiguity is the main weakness of the otherwise well designed law.

8. Related to this ambiguity is the lack of clear distinction between what is normally called statistical surveys (exhaustive or on a sample basis) as direct data collection by statistical producers from economic units or households for exclusively statistical purposes, and the statistics based on administrative sources/registers[1]. There are different terms used in the

[1] In addition to these two major types of sources of raw data for official statistics, there are three other types: data collected by government agencies for environmental or other monitoring through technical and observation devices, for example, without questioning persons or economic units; data collected for statistical or research purposes outside official statistics that are sometimes used in official statistics in

Law on State Statistics, but without clear definitions. The term "state statistical observations" used in Article 12 seems to be identical to statistical surveys; however, one part of this article also refers to "the use of collected data (including received from administrative registers)". The major legal difference between statistical surveys and official statistics based on administrative data is that, for the former, the Law on State Statistics has to be the legal basis for the whole process, including the primary data collection from respondents, whereas for the latter, the primary data collection phase (for administrative and regulatory purposes) has to have a legal basis outside the Law on State Statistics and the Statistical Programmes. An additional article defining the scope of the law in these terms, as well as an article with definitions and a consistent terminology would make the Law on State Statistics clearer and stronger at the same time.

9. While the concentration of official statistics with one producer, especially in a small country, can be justified by efficiency gains and facilitates credibility in terms of professional independence, impartiality, and confidentiality compared to a decentralised system, there is a risk that a completely centralized statistical system is not responsive enough to the user requests as they evolve over time. There are good examples of how centralised statistical systems organise and institutionalise their networks with users in order to mitigate this risk. The Law on State Statistics does not explicitly mention any of these mechanisms; however, the State Council on Statistics has the power to establish advisory committees/working groups and has actually done so by establishing a Scientific and Methodological Council, as well as working groups in different areas (Annex 3.1 presents the charter of this Council). There also are regular consultations with users when developing the annual and multi-annual programmes.

1.3. The legal basis for other producers of official statistics

10. An efficient statistical system in a small country should not spread the specialised expertise necessary for official statistics between too many producers. The Central Statistical Office should be in charge of the major part of production - the clear leader and coordinator of the system, and establish and maintain statistical infrastructure, such as statistical registers, metadata, and electronic dissemination platforms for the whole statistical system. Statistical surveys (defined as data collection from respondents outside the national administration for exclusively statistical purpose) should also be the exclusive prerogative of the Central Statistical Office (with the possible exception of the Central Bank having the possibility to organise statistical surveys with the economic units in the financial sector).

11. For official statistics based on administrative data, for which primary data collection has to be based on a different law than the Law on State Statistics, two options could be foreseen in case of a future revision of the Law on State Statistics:

    a. First option: the agency in charge of the data collection and use for administrative purposes is both willing and able to convert these data into official statistics with subsequent dissemination under its own responsibility, following international

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combination with official sources (such as for national accounts or the CPI); and data from official statistics in other countries or from international organisations that can be used directly, or in combination with national sources, for measuring cross-border flows. Some laws on state statistics mention the first of these three additional sources, so as to ensure access for official statistics to these data collected either by other ministries or public research organisations.

standards and respecting all fundamental principles as enshrined in the Law on State Statistics;

b. Second option: the conversion task is allocated to the Central Statistical Office, which regularly receives the detailed unit record data (in certain cases even with identifiers) from the administrative agency (and not only pre-compiled aggregates, as is frequently the case in Armenia), for validation from the statistical point of view, processing and dissemination of the results in its own name.

12. While the second option is foreseen by the Law on State Statistics, the first option is not at all covered as part of state statistics. The introduction of this first option, which could be important in order to avoid the risk of an uncontrolled development of a decentralised system, would affect a number of articles in this Law, and also its structure: this is explored in more detail in Annex 4.

13. For further work on this issue, it is essential not to mix up two basic notions: producer of official statistics and holder of administrative records. Almost all parts of a national administration manage and process administrative records fairly regularly, with some of the processing being statistical in nature, since resulting in some tables. Being a producer of official statistics is a far more restrictive concept, implying the production and dissemination of types of statistics that have a societal relevance beyond the management of the administrative processes in the responsibility of a specific agency. Only if an administrative source has the potential for official statistics seen as going beyond purely administrative statistics proper, an agency may qualify as producer of official statistics, if it demonstrates both willingness and ability to organise its production and dissemination process according to the relevant principles and standards, and following the legal provisions that regulate official statistics. Unfortunately, the term 'administrative statistics' used in the Law seems to cover both types of statistics compiled from administrative records, thus blurring the boundary of the notion of official statistics and the scope of the Law.

1.4. The legal basis for regular stakeholder involvement

14. In most countries, an advisory committee or council body, composed of representatives of various user groups (from ministries, media, business and research community) is created through the Law on State Statistics to advise the producers of the statistical system, notably the Central Statistical Office, on issues like the Statistical Programmes before their final adoption. The conditions of appointing the members of such a body, as well as their terms, are normally listed in the law as well. In some cases, members of such bodies are also meant to represent the respondents and to monitor the respondent burden.

15. In some areas of statistics the NSS has established regular networks with main users and also created a Scientific and Methodological Council with eleven members representing some major stakeholders (the member list is presented in Annex 3.2). The NSS should evaluate further ways and means on how to develop the regular consultations with users, respondents, and other stakeholders, for instance by renewing and extending the terms of reference and composition of the Scientific and Methodological Council and by looking into the structure and composition of sector advisory committees or groups.

1.5. Issues that may be considered in future revision process of the Law on State Statistics

16. A number of other provisions in the present law could be clarified in a future revision process (they are also listed in some detail in Annex 4).

17. Finally, there are a few issues that are important for the good functioning of a statistical system but which are missing from the present form of the Law on State Statistics:

    a. The otherwise excellent provisions on confidentiality should be complemented by a provision that identifiers should be removed from the files if they are not necessary any more for statistical purposes, and that the filled-in questionnaires should be destroyed once the data have been captured electronically, validated, coded, and edited. This seems to be in conflict with another law that requires that filled-in questionnaires be kept for 3 years. Official statistics forms should be exempted from this requirement.

    b. The provision in Article 14 that allows the use of microdata without identifiers for scientific use should be made more precise, delineating the researchers who can get access upon request, and requiring, in addition to the case by case approval by the State Council on Statistics, a contract to be signed. The obligation to sign a contract is presently only foreseen in the secondary legislation. The term "published" should be avoided in this context.

    c. There is no mentioning of combination/integration of different sources, except for statistical registers. If the absence of such mentions means that this is possible for the NSS as a part of the regular production activity, it is fine and should not be changed. If there are doubts, especially if the data protection law contains barriers without clear exemption of statistics, it may be wise to introduce an article that keeps this essential option legal for official statistics in a sustained way.

Assessment

18. *The statistical legislation regulating official statistics in Armenia is of high quality in substance, especially with respect to ensuring that official statistics are produced and disseminated in full respect of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the related parts of the European Statistics Code of Practice. However, two important elements are missing or left ambiguous in the Law on State Statistics: the position and role of other producers of official statistics and the mechanisms for monitoring user needs. Furthermore, the structure of the Law on State Statistics, as well as some provisions of lesser impact, could be improved, and remaining gaps addressed, if the revision process of the Law on State Statistics were to be started. Since the Law will soon have been in force for 10 years, the next window of opportunity should be used for starting a revision process.*

1.6. Other relevant legislation

19. Two other legal acts on statistics are available in English: Law of the Republic of Armenia on Agricultural Census (eventually not put into force) and Law of the Republic of Armenia on Population Census (came into force in 1999). Both laws have explicit reference to the Law on State Statistics, so that the fundamental principles of statistics are fully applicable also to these two major activities. They are the legal basis for censuses

every ten years. The two separate laws do not contain any specific provisions that would be in conflict with the provisions of the Law on State Statistics with respect to the fundamental principles. Article 4 of the Law on Agricultural Census contains a provision that "agricultural census data are used for statistical purposes only. The Law on Population Census is not as explicit in this respect; however, indirectly through the reference to the Law on State Statistics, a non-statistical use of population census data should be legally impossible as well.

20. One example of secondary legislation, based on the Law on State Statistics and enacted by the State Council on Statistics, was made available in English (Order on Protection of Statistical Confidentiality, dated 25 June 2001). It contains detailed specifications of the rules and procedures concerning confidentiality and is additional evidence that the principle of statistical confidentiality is very strongly followed by the NSS. The only missing element is the more detailed delimitation of units that are protected by statistical confidentiality (for example, public bodies should not be protected under these terms). Furthermore, the provision that the information taken from a public source about an individual unit does not have to be treated as confidential by the NSS has to be qualified by "as long as it is not altered on the basis of non-public sources".

21. It was not possible to examine other primary legislation in English that either overlaps with or even contradicts the Law on State Statistics, for example, the relationship between the Law on State Statistics and the Law on Data Protection is unclear. The practice in Armenia is that the conflicts between laws that result in conflicts between different agencies or parts of the government are settled by the President of the Republic; as an example, the position of the NSS to refuse access to individual information to the competition authority was contested by the competent agency but backed by the President of the Republic. However, a judicial mechanism to solve such conflicts would be preferable.

22. A provision about statistics is included in the Law on the Central Bank from 1996. It is stated that the Central Bank collects and disseminates monetary and financial statistics. The source used for these statistics, as explained in more detail in another part of the report, is information collected by the Central Bank from banks and similar financial institutions for control and supervision purposes; and for this reason it is necessary to have a legal basis for the primary data collection in this other law. The question about the relevance of the Law on State Statistics for the Central Bank's activity of using these administrative data for monetary and financial statistics is unclear, however; the easiest way to indicate that the Law on State Statistics is fully applicable before it can be amended would be to include these activities in the Statistical Programmes, which is the case.

2. NATIONAL SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

23. In general, there seems to be a close and efficient cooperation between the NSS and other partners contributing to the production of statistics. There is also a strong degree of coordination and few signs of duplication of work and conflict of interests.

24. However, there are legal and conceptual issues that should be addressed in order to make the system work even better in future, both to ensure better administrative data from the public administration and to improve the quality and the coverage of official statistics.

2.1. Structure of the national statistical system

25. The Law on State Statistics does not define the national system of official statistics in a precise way, even if there are several elements of such a definition. It describes the principle tasks of state statistics (Article 4) and the general requirements to state statistics (Article 5). The law also clearly specifies that the body implementing and coordinating state statistics is the National Statistical Service (Articles 6 and 7). It also describes the content of a State Statistical Work Programme (Article 11) which should both include a list of surveys implemented by the National Statistical Service Programme and a list of organisations, state bodies and local self-government and other administrative registers and a list of summary statistical information (data) presented by them.

26. According to the State Statistical Work Programme, there are many public and private bodies implementing administrative statistics (the full list is presented in Annex 6). In the self-assessment it is said that around 70-80 percent of official statistics in Armenia is produced by the NSS; thus, some of the mentioned partners are considered to produce state statistics even if, formally speaking, those partners are listed as producing 'administrative statistics'.

27. The two major partners of the NSS are the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) and the Ministry of Finance (MoF).

    a. **Central Bank of Armenia** is the only institution compiling monetary and financial statistics in Armenia, providing it to both the NSS and MoF. In the Article 5 of the Law on Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia it is explicit that CBA is responsible for collecting, finalising, and promulgating monetary and financial statistics. CBA also collects and provides the data used by the NSS in their balance of payments compilation.

        i. CBA has its own Statistics Department which collects and processes the data under the CBA's authority. The Statistics Department has five divisions: Monetary and Financial Statistics Division, Economic Statistics Development Division, External Sector Statistics Division, Credit Registry, and Data Processing Division. The Statistics Department directly receives the data from financial institutions operating in the country (including banks, credit organisations, insurance and investment companies, stock exchange).

        ii. CBA carries out the following surveys: on business confidence (800 businesses surveyed); consumer confidence (2000 households are surveyed); as well as on economic activity.

        iii. A survey on CPI is carried out every 10 days as a complement to the NSS survey to get more frequent data for CBA analyses. The basket used by the CBA for their 10-day CPI calculations is considerably smaller than the one used for the NSS purposes; therefore, the results are less representative but still capture the main price tendencies.

        iv. CBA conducts special surveys on money transfers, for example, in 2005-2006 a special survey on remittances estimated the non-bank transfer ratios which are now used in compilation of remittances data. CBA also surveys commercial banks on amounts of money sent and received, as well as the purposes of such transfers.

v. CBA has an internal Statistical Committee which focuses on improving monetary and financial statistics methodology, as well as on advancing statistical compilation and dissemination. One NSS staff is now in the process of becoming a permanent member of this Committee.

b. **Ministry of Finance** is responsible for collecting and processing government finance statistics, in particular central and general government operations, including social security fund and central government debt.

i. The legal basis for MoF's statistical activities is set forth in the Budget System Law of 1997 and the Treasury System Law of 2002. Ministry of Finance provides government finance statistics to the NSS which is responsible for monthly dissemination and publication of the data.

ii. MoF is in the process of implementing the Government Finance Statistics 2001 Manual and plans to fully transfer to accrual accounting (for example, general government transactions are currently recorded on a cash basis).

28. Other partners of the NSS include:

a. Ministry of Health: This ministry collects data in the health sector based on applicable laws. The ministry conducts a few joint surveys with the NSS, for example on infant mortality. A major joint survey, mainly funded by external donors, was the 2005 Armenia Demographic and Health Survey. The final report on this survey was released by the NSS in May 2007. The Ministry also disseminates other statistics in the form of books and reports, as well as on its web site which currently is under improvement. In the discussion with the representative from the ministry there was some uncertainty whether what they disseminated was considered as official statistics.

b. Ministry of Education and Science: The ministry collects data in the field of education based on applicable laws. Some data are used for internal administrative purposes and other data are published, for example as annual overview of education, including also statistics from the NSS. The ministry is in the process of developing its web dissemination. Support from the NSS is appreciated both regarding data collection and dissemination. When asked whether the statistics they published was considered as official statistics, the answer was a tentative yes, as they consider their quality standards to be the same as used in the NSS.

c. Ministry of Nature Protection: The ministry is extending its collection of data related to the environment through its subordinate agencies. Although it benefits from close cooperation with the NSS, the level of cooperation can be improved further. The data collection is apparently partly based on specific laws and also on the Law on State Statistics. The ministry has 13 information centres across the country and is currently improving its data information on the web.

d. Ministry of Agriculture: Agriculture is an important sector in Armenia, as agriculture, for example, hunting, forestry, and fishing sectors, represent around 46 percent of the employment and contribute around 18 percent of GDP.

i. The ministry is a heavy user of statistics provided by the NSS but has a need for more detailed information both by region and by products for its administrative purposes. The need to get more detailed information on production in the greenhouse sector was especially stressed.

ii. The ministry will further develop its regional network, as well as its advisory and monitoring functions. Thus, the ministry seemed to be ready to take responsibility for implementing the proposed register of agricultural units. This was already included in the Ministry's 2009 Work Plan with the aim of having the register implemented in 2010. However, so far no detailed plans for this rather challenging project were presented. One issue discussed was the legal basis, especially for establishing the register on agricultural units. It was mentioned, that if the register will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and partly used for administrative monitoring and support, there might a need to elaborate a specific legal act.

iii. When developing the register on agricultural farm units it is also important to agree on the definition of farm units, in particular, the minimum size of units to be covered. In this context, it is also important to ensure strong cooperation with the Committee on Cadastre to ensure the linkage to property registration.

iv. The ministry disseminates some statistics on its web site. In the English version the major part appears to be statistics from the NSS (even if source is not mentioned). There are some discrepancies between the main figures on land resources provided on the web site and statistics provided by the NSS, which might have to do with the degree of updating.

e. Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs: The ministry has the responsibility for updating 10 administrative registers mainly related to pensions and social security. An important register is the social security identification number register which comprises all citizens older than 16 years of age. Registration of population under 16 years is optional. This register could form the basis of a future complete population register, provided a more complete registration of the young population. Registration of migration is an issue; furthermore, it was noted that updating of both internal and external migration was relatively well covered but the consistency and quality of these data need to be improved.

i. The work has started on a unique identification number for use in different registrations of the population to be implemented in 2010.

ii. The legal basis for the different registers was established by orders from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. As the Law on State Statistics prescribes, the State Council of Statistics should be consulted on the developed reporting forms.

iii. The ministry performs analysis and forecasts, including on population, mainly through it subordinate bodies. The lack of appropriate data, largely due to the lack of well developed administrative sources, was considered a problem.

iv. The ministry publishes some statistics and analysis on its web site, as well as in printed publications.

v. The ministry has a number of subordinate bodies: Employment Service Agency, Medico-Social Expert Agency, State Labour Inspection, National Institute of Labour and Social Research, NORK – Information and Analytical Centre.

f. Ministry of Transport and Communication: The ministry collects a large amount of data and updated several registers based on specific laws on transport, for example, on roads, road construction, and on road construction equipment. A recent change in this law should make the collection of data on taxi services more reliable. In some areas, including telecom and aviation, the data is collected directly by the NSS based on the Law on State Statistics. In general, it is considered that the statistics provided by the NSS is sufficient and the service from the NSS is good.

    i. It was mentioned that a Working Group on transport statistics was being established as a subgroup under the Working Group on transport. This group could be an important forum for the exchange of information and practices.

    ii. Project Implementation Unit by the Ministry of Transport and Communication is a project implementation unit to support the development of transport infrastructure, supported by external funding, mainly from the World Bank. One part of the project has been to develop a national strategy for road safety and in this context the project, among other statistical information, needs reliable and detailed statistical data on road accidents. It was confirmed that the Unit has received good support from the NSS and that most of the necessary data is available.

g. Links with the following administrative registers were also mentioned:

    i. Civil status register - Bodies of Civil Status Registration, Passport Unit of Police;

    ii. Register of state and municipality revenues and expenditure.

29. The formulations of the Law on State Statistics (see also Chapter 1) introduces some challenges that might expand with the development of administrative registers and the actual dissemination of statistics (official or non-official) by other bodies:

    a. The split between the official and administrative statistics is somewhat artificial, mainly based on which agency produces this statistics, and not on any specific quality criteria. For example, if the Ministry of Education disseminates statistics on education, following the good practices for producing official statistics, it is called administrative statistics, whereas it would be state statistics if disseminated by the NSS.

    b. Secondly, it is important to ensure that all administrative data collections are based on specific administrative legal acts, which regulates the use without prohibiting the transmission to the NSS and use for statistical purposes.

Assessment

30. *The Law on State Statistics has given a strong support to the development and coordination of the use of administrative sources for official statistics, especially in a time of transition while developing new administrative tools and systems. The competences of the NSS in relation to the data collection and structuring have also been fundamental to this process.*

31. *However, with faster development of administrative capacities and increasing needs for statistics for policy implementation, a clear split between administrative legislation and statistical legislation becomes essential. Therefore, appropriate legislation which ensures the possibilities for administrative use should be developed for handling of needed administrative data collection. Some of the areas where such development is necessary*

are education, health, and agriculture (in particular, the register of farms). At the same time it is necessary to take into account the needs of official statistics and ensure good cooperation and support from the NSS.

2.2. National statistical programming and system coordination mechanisms

32. Based on the Law on State Statistics, the NSS and the State Council on Statistics have a strong coordination role of both state statistics and administrative statistics. The main coordination mechanisms are related to the Three-Year and Annual State Statistical Work Programmes. Draft Programmes are being circulated to the main external partners and posted on the NSS website for comments.

33. The Three-Year Statistical Work Programme for 2007-2009 (translated excerpts are presented in Annex 5) is adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. This program has been developed according to the requirement of part 5 of the Article 11 of the Law on State Statistics and defines the directions of state statistical activity for 2007-2009 by economic, demographic, social and environmental fields of statistics.

34. The Three-Year Statistical Work Programme for 2007-2009 includes statistical information necessary for observation of the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation of the country, taking into account restrictions of the available resources, burden on statistical information providers and cost- effectiveness.

35. According to the Law on State Statistics, directions and activities foreseen by the Three-Year Programme take into consideration the comparability of country indicators with international statistical standards and ensure stability between planned long-term developments and the proportion of resources foreseen for state statistics on annual basis.

36. The State Council of Statistics has the power of adopting legal acts in the field of statistics in cases stipulated by the Law on State Statistics. Thus, the Council has the right to establish the methodology and forms of documentation of the administrative information collection in addition to supervising the Programmes and activities of the NSS.

37. The Scientific and Methodological Council has been established by the State Council of Statistics resolution. The main task of this council is to advise on statistical methodology and the members include representatives from scientific institutions.

Assessment

38. *The coordination mechanisms between state bodies, involved in statistical production appear to be strong, as described in the Law on State Statistics. The cooperation with the main partners through hearings and ad-hoc meetings also seems to be quite well established. However, there are no formal forums or meeting places where partners and stakeholders can meet and exchange views in a more systematic form. Therefore, establishing the Statistical Advisory Committee comprising representatives from various user groups would serve to improve the overall dialogue and coordination function.*

39. *Furthermore, a statistics portal covering and presenting an overview of statistics produced outside the NSS and a link to these statistics may be considered. As part of this and the Annual Programme, a consistent list of statistical surveys and indicators that are part of the official statistical system could be developed including a standard form for documenting the data (metadata).*

40. *In addition, it may be useful to establish working groups with a broad representation of external partners and stakeholders covering some other important statistical areas, similar to the working groups already being active in such field as transport statistics, external sector statistics, environment statistics, IT, social statistics, and, demographic statistics..*

3. NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE

3.1. Institutional mission

41. The mission of the NSS is "to collect, publish and disseminate official statistics for public use. Data quality and users' trust, as well as professional independence, are considered the top priority tasks."

42. In addition to the mission statement, the following main functions of the NSS are listed on the website:

    a. to collect, process, summarise, analyse and publish statistical data;

    b. to co-operate with appropriate state and local self-governmental bodies in the collection of information;

    c. to develop and improve methodologies for statistical work;

    d. to co-ordinate the information and data collection according to the unified classification system based on international standards;

    e. to organise statistical surveys;

    f. to carry out Population Census every 10 years;

    g. to establish, maintain, and update the Business Register;

    h. to provide users with statistical information;

    i. to ensure the transparency and accessibility of summary statistical information;

    j. to co-operate with international organisations and national statistical services.

Assessment

43. *Mission statement gives a concise summary of the main tasks of the NSS and underlines the importance of the quality, users trust and professional independence for the office.*

3.2. Organisation of the National Statistical Service

44. The Head of the NSS is the President of the NSS who at the same time also serves as the Chairman of the State Council of Statistics. The State Council on Statistics is the major decision making body: it is composed of the Chairman of the NSS and six Council Members. The Members are appointed by the President of Armenia based on a proposal from the President of NSS for a six-year period. The Council Members earn salaries equivalent to those of the Deputy Ministers'; the salary levels have not been revised since 2001. Currently, five of the current Council Members serve their second term. The

Council Members can remain in the post until the mandatory retirement age of 65. Each Council member is a substantive manager of the specific divisions that are under his responsibility.

45. The next subordinate level to the President of NSS includes the Vice-President and Chief of Staff. The Vice-President is replacing the President in his function as the Head of NSS when the President is absent, while one of the Council members takes over his functions as the Chairman of the State Council. In addition, the Vice President directly supervises the Statistical Reporting and Accounting Division.

46. The Chief of Staff is responsible both for the financial and staff administration (human resources management, preparation of budget, financial management, organisational issues). He is supervising all divisions in questions that concern the work of staff related to the Law of Civil Servants (for example, approving salaries, vacations, and promotions). Administrative divisions dealing with personnel management, accounting, as well as with financial, economic and legal matters report to the Chief of Staff (and Deputy Chief of Staff) only.

47. The International Cooperation Division and the Statistical Information Dissemination and Marketing Divisions report directly to the President of the NSS.

3.2.1. Organisation of the central office of the NSS

48. The NSS is internally organised into 31 divisions and 11 regional statistical agencies (the NSS organisation chart is presented in Annex 7). The total number of staff in the central office is 181. Some of the divisions include only 1-3 persons. 16 divisions employing 91 staff are dealing with the subject-matter statistics. 15 divisions employing 71 staff carry out administrative and support functions (such as international cooperation, dissemination, legal, personnel management, information technology resources management). The number of staff in each unit is approved annually by the President of the NSS. The regional statistical agencies employ 179 persons in total. In addition, there are 358 contract staff hired for different surveys to collect the data in the Yerevan City and regional offices.

49. All subject-matter divisions are supervised in parallel by a Council member and the Chief of Staff. The Council Members carry out statistical activity management functions (based on the Law on State Statistics) while the Chief of Staff has administrative functions (based on the Law on Civil Service). As for all other civil servants, the Chief of Staff's functions are described in the so-called "passport" of the post.

50. The subject-matter divisions are grouped together and form *de facto* departments as they are supervised by one Council member. For example, the Council member on Demography, Sociology and Public Activity manages five divisions: (1) Household Surveys, (2) Population Census and Demography, (3) Price Statistics and International Comparison Programme, (4) Labour Statistics, and (5) Social Sphere and Nature Protection. At the same time the Social Sphere and Nature Protection Division is also supervised by the Council member on Nature Protection.

51. The role of the Council Member on Nature Protection is not very clear: he coordinates the work of all subdivisions implementing statistics related to the environment, as well as the environment register (jointly with the Council member on Regional Governance and Local Self-government). He also supervises a part of the Social Sphere and Nature

Protection Division of 2 persons working on environment statistics. In practice, such work organisation can be very challenging as the staff whose work is related to environment has three supervisors: two Council members and the Chief of Staff.

52. The organisational chart of the office is established by the Decree of the State Council on Statistics. The Council can change the structure as need arises: this has been done in several occasions during the last few years.

53. The structure of the NSS and, consequently, its organisational chart are quite complicated. Below is provided some explanation about the Divisions which functions are not very obvious from the organisational chart:

    a. Statistical Reporting, Accounting and Monitoring Division coordinates and monitors the submission of mandatory statistical forms by the enterprises. If there is a problem with the timeliness and quality of the reports, they follow this up together with the staff from the subject-matter divisions. Some of the reporting forms are received by the central office and some by the regional offices depending on the subject.

    b. Household Surveys Division (grouped together with other social statistics divisions) has similar function concerning the household surveys. It is also responsible for coordination, logistics, and training for the household surveys.

    c. Printing and Copying Division is preparing the small publications released by the office (newsletters, Reports on Social and Economic Situation).

    d. First Division (consisting of one person) is responsible for the data confidentiality. This person is also in contact with the National Security Commission to ensure that the data considered secret (such as the data on military forces) is not published or disseminated. This Division should report directly to the President (this is not clear form the organisational chart).

    e. General Division is responsible for correspondence and is - in a way - a mailing office that distributes the incoming mail to the relevant divisions.

    f. Public Relations Division is a new division which is in fact responsible for the statistical library and mass media. It includes 3 persons: head of the division, a librarian, and a public information officer. The latter's working place is located at the entrance of the building, outside the security guarded area. He or she can answer questions about the statistical office and provide the entry passes to visitors going to the statistical library.

    g. Price Statistics and International Comparisons Division is grouped together with social statistics because it includes data collection from household surveys. Although it is in fact economic statistics, the work organisation has justified keeping it together under the Council Member of Demography, Sociology and Public Activity. Social Sphere and Nature Protection Statistics Division (employing 7 persons) combines work on education, health, culture, and nature protection statistics. The work on nature protection statistics is new and there is not yet a separate unit to deal with that. This part of the work is managed by the Council Member on Nature Protection.

54. The parallel management structure by a Council Member and Chief of Staff is an interesting approach. According to the staff interviewed, its positive side is that the Council Members are relieved from administrative functions and can therefore

concentrate on the methodology and the substance of work. When any decisions are to be taken (for example, concerning hiring or promoting staff, financial incentives or travel), these are discussed and taken together by the Council member and the Chief of Staff. This may work well when there is good cooperation. However, it may bring problems when conflicting interests get involved concerning resource allocations. It is also not always easy or even possible to distinguish between statistical and administrative matters, as well as in whose area of responsibility lays a certain task. The Division Heads may have a difficult time in deciding whose orders to follow in the case of conflicting instructions.

3.2.2. Organisation of regional offices

55. There are 11 regional offices. According to the Article 8 of the Law on State Statistics, each of the 10 regions (marzes) and the capital Yerevan has a regional office. The biggest of these is the Yerevan City office employing 44 persons, other regional offices employ about 10-15 persons. The heads of territorial and functional units are nominated by the President of the NSS. Each office has a Charter approved by the State Council on Statistics. The Charter defines the main tasks, governance, and structure of the offices.

    a. The main task of regional offices is to collect data on economic and social processes on the region, and provide information to users. The regional offices enter the data, sum up the results of surveys and submit the aggregated data to the central office. The offices are responsible for implementing the surveys, the reliability and completeness of the data, confidentiality, and improving data quality. They also support local authorities by compiling data for the region and its communities. The NSS has tried to advance creating administrative registers at the community level to help facilitate the data collection from communities and improve data quality. However, administrative registers at the community level have not been yet implemented in practice.

    b. The regional offices are the responsibility of the Council Member for Regional Governance and Local Self-Government. His task is to coordinate the regional agencies and their relations with the NSS central office. In practice, it can not be expected that the Council Member coordinates all interactions with the regional offices. The heads of the regional agencies deal directly with the functional units of the NSS and the Council Members responsible for specific statistics, as well as with the Chief of Staff and the IT division.

    c. The IT equipment and working conditions of the regional offices are at a much lower level than in the central office (see also sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3). As the regional offices are not well equipped with computers (for example, not every regular staff members has a personal computer), the contract workers complete questionnaires by hand and give them to regular staff for data input. The regional offices are connected to the central office via modem for data transfer. There is no internet connection and no e-mail. The working conditions in the regional offices are considerably below the level of the central office: many buildings require urgent repair; however, budget allocations are seldom available for the purpose.

    d. The NSS holds regular annual meetings with all staff of the regional offices, as well as monthly meetings with the heads of offices and heads of units. In addition, the NSS subject-matter staff from the central office visit the regional offices about once per year.

e. The regional offices send to the central office both aggregated statistics and raw microdata. In some cases, because of the time constraints, the aggregate data are sent first and the microdata some time later. The regional offices perform the micro-editing. The central office conducts data checking, editing, and aggregations.

f. The NSS estimates that a lot has to be done to improve the work of the regional statistical offices. In the regions, it has been difficult to explain the importance of statistics overall, as well as the importance of providing the information to the NSS. While the NSS is fairly well known and trusted in the Yerevan City, the situation is often different in the regions, especially in the rural areas. Setting up good quality statistical registers could diminish the dependency of the NSS in the data collection process on the poorly equipped and not always well functioning regional offices.

Assessment:

56. *The organisational chart of the NSS is quite complicated and it is difficult to establish the lines of responsibility and accountability. With so many relatively small divisions, internal coordination in the office can be a challenge.*

57. *The organisational chart is a combination of a subject-oriented (stove-pipe) and process-oriented approach. As an additional complication, some of the obligatory business reporting is submitted directly to the central office and some to the regional offices. The organisation of the office could benefit from some clarification of tasks and streamlining of business processes. While there is probably a good explanation and justification for the existence of the different divisions and present allocation of tasks, the reorganisation of the overall structure can help to make the office more efficient.*

58. *There seems to be a great potential for efficiency gains through a better division of labour between the regional offices and the NSS central office. However, to obtain these efficiency gains, the functions of regional offices have to be clarified. It should be ensured that the NSS gets all microdata from the regional offices, not only aggregate data. Taking into account the poor IT equipment in regional offices, it may be more efficient to carry out the data processing and aggregation in the central office. This may free some resources in the regional offices for improving the data collection.*

3.3. Resource management

3.3.1. Finance and budgeting

59. The NSS is financed from the state budget which is under obligation to provide financing for the projects envisaged in the Three-Year State Statistical Work Programme. These projects may be shifted across corresponding annual programmes to be in line with the allocated annual budget: State Council on Statistics adopts Annual State Statistical Work Programme a month after the Law on Annual State Budget comes into force.

60. The Chief of Staff is responsible for any financial means provided to the NSS; he also disposes of the NSS property allocated by the state. Furthermore, the Chief of Staff organises the preparation of draft annual NSS budget. The President of the NSS approves annual expenditure budget and bears the final responsibility for financial reports.

61. Since 2006, the NSS annual budget comprised around 0.025 percent of country's GDP. In 2006, the annual budget amounted to 707.37 million Armenian drams (AMD) which

represents 1.35 million euros. In the following two years, the annual budget in AMD grew 11.1 and 11.5 percent respectively, reaching 785.54 million AMD (around 1.5 million euros) in 2007 and increasing to 875.89 million AMD (1.67 million euros) in 2008. Salary expenditures comprise around three quarters of an annual budget. Salary increases also take the biggest share of the annual increase in the NSS budget.

62. The NSS considers the allocated budget to be not entirely adequate for capital expenditures and operational sustainability. Regarding the former, it was noted that in addition to the difficulties in obtaining sufficient resources for capital maintenance, the process of requesting additional funds for such purposes is lengthy and complicated. Regarding the latter, the NSS has turned to considerable reliance on the foreign donor assistance which has been crucial in conducting many smaller and larger survey projects. Without donor support very few publications would at all be available in the English language.

3.3.2. Staff, recruitment, and training

63. By the end of 2008, the NSS employed the following staff:

Table 1. NSS staff, end of 2008

	Civil servants	Contractual staff	Total
Headquarters	181	33	214
Regional offices	179	358	537
Total	360	391	751

The number of NSS employees is approved by the Prime Minister after the presentation of the President of the NSS.

64. 48 percent of the NSS employees are civil servants, that is, their pay, promotion, and other employment conditions are regulated by the Law on Civil Service.

65. Contractual staff are employed on fixed-term basis and fall outside the scope of the aforementioned law. The NSS employs 391 contract staff, most of them employed by the regional offices to carry out surveys.

66. Employing the contract workers provides flexibility as the workload can be very different over the year. The salaries of interviewers are low compared to the salaries of civil servants. At the same time, the local interviewers can provide good benefits with low costs. They are well informed about the local situation and money also has higher value in the rural regions. In some cases, field worker base pay is augmented from the foreign donor funds designated towards certain surveys.

67. In 2008, 71 percent of the NSS staff were female, although this percentage has declined slightly from the past two years. 87 percent of the staff have tertiary education, the majority of them having graduated from the fields of economics and engineering. Staff without tertiary education is the minority: 7 percent have secondary vocational and 6 percent have secondary education levels.

68. Low salaries are the main problem for retaining and recruiting staff. Although the salaries are technically comparable to the civil servants in other institutions, they are much lower

than in, for example, the Central Bank or the private sector. Therefore, after the recruited staff learn skills that are valued by higher-paying agencies, the rate of turnover rises sharply. In 2008, 19 full time staff have left the NSS and the rate of turnover has been rising over the past three years.

69. Staff mobility across the divisions within the NSS is not encouraged via the civil servant salary system. Currently, employees can change their divisions either via promotion or by participating in an open competition for the position. Since the salary depends on grade and on the number of years in a position, switching positions without promotion implies the loss of seniority earnings, effectively limiting staff rotation. Promoting internal staff mobility in the NSS would be very difficult because this would require changes in the Law on Civil Service.

70. The NSS currently does not have a centralised staff training program. Staff may participate in local trainings in other institutions or international training events if resources permit this; however, this participation is not systematic and nearly all subject or domain training is received on-the-job.

71. Overall, all civil servants are subject to general training and qualification exercise every three years which they must pass to maintain their grade. Qualification attestation testing is a two-stage process: questionnaire on constitution and legislation comprises the first part; the second stage consists of an interview with the attestation committee on civil servant's job subject area.

3.3.3. Information technology

72. NSS information technology is the responsibility of the Information Resources Management and Technologies Department which employs 11 people and is under the management of the Council member for information technologies. The Department is comprised of three units: Information Technologies Development Division, Data Base Development and Programming, and Information Resources Management Division.

73. The Department is responsible for technical IT services, maintaining and updating the NSS website and intranet, providing software, as well as developing own software components and applications, as well as creating databases. The Department has been shifting to SQL for the past 4-5 years. Currently, six sectors (finance, industry, trade, services, construction, transport) and 26 databases were moved to the SQL, while the remaining are still on Microsoft Access. Developing data warehouse, online reporting forms, corporate server network are main future objectives for the Department; however, lack of financial resources has impeded its progress.

    a. Intranet contains technical service database, information on procedures and documentation, regional office contact database; there is a separate intranet for divisions dealing with financial resources.

74. In 2008, IT expenditures comprised 1.5 percent of annual NSS budget (12.5 million AMD or 28,121 euros). This represents a slight decrease in IT expenditures over 2007 when IT budget amounted to 14.9 million AMD or 31,691 euros.

75. There are 243 computers in the NSS central office, 180 of which are connected to the internet. The central office also houses 13 servers out of which 2 are designated for SQL and 2 – for domain structure purposes. The situation with the IT equipment in the

regional offices is considerably weaker than in the central office: altogether there are 116 personal computers in the regional offices (for 179 regular staff and 358 contractual staff working in the regional offices), most of which are only Pentium 1 and Pentium 2.

76. Overall, the IT equipment renewal rate is below 5 percent which contrasts considerably with the standard rate of 20-30 percent. This results in a large number of very old computers still used in the NSS which places considerable strain on work efficiency in general, as well as on the IT Department. Many of the older computers are not compatible with the newer programs; therefore, in practice two versions of each program and application must be created so that both older and newer computers can have the access. Standard software is also maintained in newer and older versions, with older versions not being retired. The Department estimates that 20 new computers will be required by 2010 to maintain the continuity of the IT systems.

Assessment

77. *NSS financial, capital, and equipment resources are not adequate for the NSS needs. For many surveys, some of which are substantial, the NSS relies fully on foreign donor financing. Salaries of the workforce are not at par with comparable salaries in other public institutions or private sector resulting in difficulties with staff recruitment and turnover.*

78. *NSS should work towards developing a centralised, focused internal staff training program in addition to the current training practices.*

79. *Low IT budget can not maintain a proper equipment renewal rate; this further increases the already substantial workload of the IT department. Improvement in the IT renewal rate would, among other things, eventually eliminate the need for work in different versions of same application and would free up human resources for modernised and more efficient NSS work.*

3.4. Internal and external monitoring of quality and performance

80. The internal monitoring in the NSS is represented by the regular decision and work hierarchy, embedded in the NSS organisational structure. Heads of the divisions and units are responsible for the quality of the work performed in the respective organisational unit. The members of the State Council on Statistics are responsible for the work accomplished in the divisions they oversee. The President of the NSS assumes the ultimate responsibility for the organisation's work as a whole.

81. Currently there is no specific unit that would be responsible for quality training or a common NSS quality policy. The Statistical Work Methodology and Classifications Division is responsible for a central repository of metadata in the SDDS format but a more extensive solution for documentation of data and procedures could be considered. The NSS management places importance on quality issues; however, the prevailing attitude is that everybody strives to achieve maximal quality given the low available resources. Some discussions on Total Quality Management and the European Quality Framework Methodology have taken place among the State Council on Statistics members but it has been generally considered too early for more serious studying or even partial implementation, as resources are so scarce.

82. Within Armenia, the NSS is also subject to a quite rigorous monitoring by the State Financial Control system. This monitoring is, however, concentrated solely on the financial issues.

83. External monitoring has taken place mainly by the International Monetary Fund which has given the NSS good marks in their 2002 and 2009 Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC). In addition, an external evaluation of the strategic management and training needs was conducted in 2006 by the World Bank. A more comprehensive evaluation will take place both in the form of the Statistical Master Plan expected to be produced in 2009 with the support of the World Bank, as well as this Global Assessment Report.

Assessment

84. *Currently, internal monitoring within the NSS is done via basic hierarchy channels and there is no centralised internal monitoring system, although quality issues are given importance and consideration by the management. Introduction of an internal quality monitoring system should be considered. Ultimately this may be a resource-demanding initiative; however, an established internal quality monitoring system will serve as an investment to further strengthen the NSS position and its credibility.*

3.5. Dissemination policy

85. NSS is committed to improve dissemination and accessibility of its statistical information and to guarantee equal access to statistical information for all users.

86. For nearly a decade, the responsibility for dissemination matters has belonged to the Statistical Information, Dissemination and Marketing Division which reports directly to the President of the NSS. Some dissemination activities may be conducted directly by the production units, for example the units producing price and foreign trade statistics.

87. In preparing its Annual State Statistical Work Programme the NSS closely communicates with core users, such as the organisations belonging to the central governmental bodies, some research institutions, as well as the main central and university libraries. However, other user categories could benefit substantially from more interaction and communication.

88. Existing user relations structures and the dissemination activities of the NSS can not be considered consistently proactive. The dissemination activities are largely limited to the NSS website, the publication of a number of press releases and to a brief mentioning in printed publications and a publication catalogue about the possibility to obtain statistical services from the NSS. It is in principle possible to receive additional and free of charge services of the NSS based on requests presented in an official letter.

89. Users are frequently advised to make use of the NSS website for internet publications. Alternatively they have the possibility to visit the Statistical Library located in the central office or, in some cases, to visit the Statistical Information, Dissemination and Marketing Division, presenting their requests. Part of the non-governmental users, interviewed during the first mission of the Global Assessment, expressed their wish to have improved user services.

90. The regional offices have a very limited role in dissemination of statistical information to different local users - their existence is motivated solely by activities related to collection

of data. The publishing of regional statistical information is centralized to the Central office.

91. Printed publications represent an important way to disseminate statistical information. Users interviewed about the satisfaction/dissatisfaction commented on the impossibility to receive a copy of a needed publication if you do not happen to be on the limited distribution list. The very limited print runs of printed publications and the practical inexistence of chargeable services, due to contradictory legislation, prevents some users from obtaining statistical publications in the printed form even though they would wish to obtain them on a chargeable basis.

92. The seven persons' division prepares the voluminous tri-lingual (Armenian, English, Russian) Statistical Yearbook, "Socio-Economic Situation of the Republic of Armenia – Informational Monthly Report" - a publication presenting freshly updated national and regional statistical information on the country on a monthly basis, a brief national abstract publication "Armenia in Figures", as well as "Marzes in the Republic of Armenia" with detailed regional information and other summary publications.

93. The most requested publication is the Statistical Yearbook of Armenia with the largest print run – 500 copies distributed free of charge. However, this print run has been of same size throughout the entire last decade. No growth has taken place due to the vicious circle of limited resources and no chance to accumulate revenues. Progress can be noted concerning the financing structure: in the beginning of this decade the printing costs were financed by the European Union, today – by the Armenian state budget. The Monthly Informational Report is distributed to solely around 200 organizations. Print runs of other statistical publications are usually very modest.

94. All publications of the NSS are posted on the web site in PDF format. In principle, this gives any user basic access to the main production results of the NSS. However, the inflexible PDF format makes retrieving numeric information cumbersome and work-intensive – a problem mentioned by numerous users.

95. In 2008, the number of visitors to the NSS web site exceeded the 100,000 limit: in 2007 the number of visitors was 93,000 and in 2008 – 114,000. In terms of response speed of the materials posted on the NSS web site, a clear improvement has taken place in the recent years.

96. The main responsibility for the non-chargeable dissemination is with the Statistical Information, Dissemination and Marketing Division, consisting of seven staff members. This unit keeps track of the distribution lists of different printed publications. In the end of each year it prepares a list of all planned publications of NSS, sends out the list to a limited number of users (mainly in ministries and other governmental institutions) and posts on the Web site within the framework of the annual programme, collects their requests on statistical publications for the forthcoming year, and delivers the publications to the users. A Catalogue of Statistical Publications is published at the beginning of every year. It presents the 20 or more printed publications in Armenian and English, as well as the press releases and library of the NSS. As the print run of this Catalogue is only 180 copies (data for 2009), its use for promotional activities to new users of statistical information is quite limited.

97. Chargeable services on customer-specified spheres of information based on existing information collection are provided in only very limited cases. There are no motivation

structures for providing or developing chargeable services because in practice every service, provided additionally to the specifications of the Statistical Programme, has to be produced and disseminated based on the pre-defined existing limited resources. The background for this peculiar situation lies in the contradictory legislation: the Law on State Statistics allows the NSS to provide statistical services on a chargeable basis but the Law on Governmental Organisations stipulates that all the revenue a government agency receives will go to the general state budget without the agency in question having any share of it. This has resulted in a situation where the NSS has no motivation to perform any chargeable services, resulting in a very non-proactive role concerning any additional services to be added to the already heavily loaded Statistical Programme.

98. This lack of cost recovery based on contradictory legislation is a major impediment to the development of a real service orientation. In international practice of statistical services, general and broad-based services should be free of charge and easily available, whereas specialized or customized information, the production and deliveries of which incur additional costs for the NSS, should be delivered on a chargeable basis. Chargeable statistical services would also provide a market signal on the popularity of and emerging interest in different statistical services among various categories of users, providing the agency with important information on the demand structures of different user categories. This obvious contradiction in the legislation should to be abolished, taking, for instance, the example of the public cartographic services of Armenia where chargeable services are an integrated part of the governmental institution.

99. The electronic services consist mainly of tabulated materials in PDF format on the internet. Process of search and retrieval for aggregated statistical information is quite time consuming for users.

100. A service database, making use of a multidimensional PC-Axis or corresponding software would greatly increase user-friendliness of the electronically provided information. Even basic MS Excel tables would serve the cause better than the present information structure in PDF or MS Word formats.

101. The NSS was one of the first subscribers to the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) among the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. It disseminates all SDDS data categories on its web site. The publication of all datasets met or exceeded the SDDS requirements. In 2009 ROSC by the IMF, the NSS received excellent marks for periodicity and timeliness of its SDDS information and got positive evaluation for more or less all relevant areas in relation to the Data Quality Assessment Framework.

102. With the exception of some summary and research-oriented publications, all publications of the NSS have pre-informed fixed release dates in the Statistical Programme. All publications are presented on the NSS web site.

103. The NSS has a statistical library in its central office building which is open to the public. However, its location on the 7th floor of the building, behind a guarded entrance probably does not make a visit to the statistical library too tempting for the public, although a simplified access procedure has recently been established. In 2008, the statistical library had 410 visitors of which 55 percent were students. In 2007, the corresponding figures were 620 and 50 percent.

104. Other ways of dissemination are press conferences which are organised at the central office twice a year on a regular basis: February press conference informs about the socio-economic development during the previous year, press conference in July discusses the content of the forthcoming Statistical Programme. Thematic press conferences occur on an irregular basis. Regional offices do not organise press conferences. Press releases are published on the web site with a frequency of approximately one release every 1-2 weeks.

105. The basic mailing list of regular press release contacts contains about 25 receivers out of a total existence of more than 1000 media organisations. Anybody can be added to that mailing list on request. For the main media with an economic orientation efforts have recently been made to invite them to training on statistical literacy.

106. The disclosure of information takes place at the same fixed time to all categories of users and through all distribution channels used – no user category has any preliminary access to the publication of statistical releases.

Assessment

107. *The dissemination activities of the NSS formally seem to be in good shape and order: some 25 publications are published annually, a growing number are translated into English, there is a web site with a growing number of users and a Statistical Library is in principle open to everybody, and a Publication Catalogue is published annually.*

108. *Notwithstanding these positive features, the dynamics of the dissemination activities is lacking. The print runs of the publications are so limited that it is practically almost impossible to have new users on the distribution lists. The Publication Catalogue is, due to resource limitations, produced with a very limited print run; therefore, its role in active dissemination is quite modest. As most of the statistical information materials on the web site are in PDF and Word formats, they are not very user-friendly. The statistical library is located in regular (guarded) office space so it is not as inviting to outside users as it should be.*

109. *As chargeable dissemination is made nearly impossible due to contradictory legislation, there is presently no drive for proactive dissemination or marketing of statistical information. As a result the established customers are well served but no attempts are made to attract new users of statistical information.*

110. *The relatively small subscriber amount of requests for regular press release services may reflect the fact that not too much publicity work or marketing for this service has been done.*

111. *Currently in the NSS the dissemination activities of statistical publications are understood mainly as distribution of publications and placing statistical information on the web site. Technically this distribution is conducted fairly effectively – to the limited groups of potential clients who are privileged to receive statistical publications – with detailed mailing lists to mainly governmental institutions, often with named persons as receivers. This could form a good basis for the development of a more modern marketing and dissemination strategy. Decisions on developing a marketing and dissemination strategy are recommended to be taken in the next Three-Year Programme.*

3.6. Relations with mains users of statistical information

3.6.1. Relations with the central government

112. Today the Statistical System of Armenia serves the needs of the central government well. It has a good reputation among officials in ministries and central administrative bodies for providing useful and important information for facilitating policy planning and decision making. Its role as an independent, non-ministerial state service is appreciated and the understanding of its broadly independent status is appreciated The Annual Statistical Programme is built up in an iterative process with other state administrations, which have a fairly strong position in influencing the content of the statistical production process. The need for a clear distinction between regular, long term statistical production processes and services on specific needs to state bodies is today not seen as a problem.

113. Different bodies of the central government can easily obtain the regularly published statistical information materials they deem important for their work. In a way this network functions very well, especially when compared with services provided to other user categories. State bodies are well represented on the dissemination list of basic statistical publications.

Assessment:

114. *The good relations with the governing state structures have consolidated the role and status of the NSS as a centralised producer of statistical information. Higher state authorities also appear to understand the necessity to protect a relative independence of the central statistical body.*

115. *Dissemination of regularly produced statistical information materials to state organisations takes place on a well established and regular basis.*

3.6.2. Relations with local governments

116. Armenia is administratively divided into 10 regions (marzes) and the capital Yerevan. The statistical needs of these regional administrative units, as well as local administrative units, are mainly served by the regional offices of the NSS, based on the information processed at the NSS central office.

117. The work of the NSS regional offices focuses primarily on the data collection; however, they also provide publications to the local governments and receive local government requests and questions. Usually the local administration is entitled to receive a copy of the NSS publications.

Assessment

118. *Currently regional offices conduct some dissemination to local governments; however, it is unclear whether and how the information received in this way is used. In order to meet local government needs more efficiently, systematic user evaluations should be considered.*

3.6.3. Liaison with research institutions and universities

119. Today the NSS has fairly developed relations to universities and research institutions. The Scientific and Methodological Council of the NSS enjoys the membership of some

university scholars. A number of NSS staff teach at higher education institutions. A number of students work as interns in the NSS. Students are the dominant user group of the statistical library in the central office of the NSS. Main university libraries receive one copy of the majority of NSS printed publications.

Assessment

120. *There is still a need for further developing the liaison with research institutions and universities. The comments by the research community can be of great assistance to the producers of official statistics in the development and implementation of sound statistical methodology.*

3.6.4. Liaison with the business community

121. The NSS has established relations with the Central Chamber of Commerce of Armenia and all main business associations (such as Banks Association of Armenia, Businessmen and Entrepreneurs Association of Armenia, Accountants and Auditors Association of Armenia, Tour operators Association of Armenia, IT Enterprises Association of Armenia, Traders and Sellers Association of Armenia). However, the NSS presently does not have very active direct relations to corporations and enterprises as regards the active dissemination of statistical information, though about 1000 of their requests are satisfied annually on average. There are thousands of relations and interactive moments between the NSS with various enterprises related to the data collection. This may result in statistics being perceived in the business community more as a reporting burden and less as a source of useful information in making or planning business decisions.

122. Businesses make indirect use of statistical information all the time. In bigger business entities both consultants and research divisions are used for preparing their own more voluminous business decisions and almost always these professionals make use of statistical information in preparing estimations and recommendations for business decisions. Foreign enterprises, increasing their involvement in the economic life of Armenia, look for statistical facts on the targeted operating environment using the sources from the national providers of official statistics or "guesstimates" of international or intelligence organizations. They may use experts for evaluating the reliability and validity of information produced by national official statistics but no bigger foreign investment, market transaction or marketing effort is made without the use of statistical information.

Assessment

123. *The representation of the business community should be strengthened in the Scientific and Methodological Council, as well as in relevant committees and working groups. Establishing a Business Council of the NSS could also be considered.*

124. *The need to strive for a reduction of the response burden on statistical questionnaires is an understandable and necessary field of activity, also reflected in the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice. For the moment there does not seem to be much criticism over this in Armenia but it is quite likely that in the future there will be needs to develop the structures of statistical information collection and production from traditional "stove-pipe" structures into more generic information collection for a more standardised and integrated approach, in order to diminish the response burden in a society which needs a growing amount of information for different stakeholders' decision making processes.*

3.6.5. Relations with other user categories

125. Besides the important stakeholder and user categories listed above there are other users and stakeholders whose existence should be taken into account when planning the contacting and public relations work of the NSS.

126. The probably best served user category – besides the central public institutions - is the media. The NSS has a fairly regular production of press releases, a tradition of organising press conferences and a generally open and positive attitude to the media.

127. With other user categories the interaction is more sporadic.

a. Some libraries in the tertiary educational institutions receive one copy of the Statistical Yearbook and some other statistical publications: this represents most of the systematic contacts with the wide range of educational institutions.

b. Trade unions and employers' organisations, even though they use abundant amounts of statistical information in their professional advocacy, negotiation, and research activities, are irregularly contacted by the NSS and only on the national confederation level. Trade unions of different branches are not one of the target groups for the information the NSS sends out, nor are their counterparts on the employers' side.

c. Non-governmental organisations, the number of which in Armenia has grown substantially in the recent years, have contacts with the NSS mainly on their own initiative. There are regular contacts with non-governmental organisations that are dealing with different sectors such as demography, gender, trafficking, poverty, environment, and consumers' interests.

d. Pensioners' organisations, youth, environmental, health, poverty-reduction organisations, lobbyist entities all need some statistical information and evidence in advocating and promoting their causes. The possibilities for enhancing the use of statistical information are today far from exhausted in Armenia, especially since these organizations are now in the stage of formation.

Assessment

128. *It is evident that there is a need for developing a marketing and dissemination strategy for the NSS to build relations with different user categories and important stakeholders.*

129. *User and stakeholder relations could be further developed through the establishment of a number of user councils with the main user categories, for example a Media Relations Council and a Library Relations Council. According to the Decree on Statistics such bodies can be established by the decision of the State Council on Statistics. They can also bring forward the development of new service forms for the different user categories.*

3.7. International cooperation

130. International cooperation division which currently consists of 5 employees has been created in 1994. It manages and co-ordinates all international cooperation activities in the NSS, participating in all phases of projects financed within the international cooperation framework. The division is under direct supervision of the President of the NSS. The division is very closely involved in drafting project proposals, preparation and follow-up materials, as well as in the organisation of related meetings.

131. The NSS has been quite actively involved in the statistical co-operation with the European Union. The NSS has been a beneficiary of Technical Aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States Programme (TACIS): statistical components in TACIS 8 (November 2005–January 2007) and TACIS 10 (June 2007–June 2009). These Programmes are considered very useful by the NSS.

132. Besides participating in the TACIS programmes, the NSS also proactively pursuing other European Union assistance options. Three NSS applications for financing by the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) have been approved (study visits to Denmark and Germany and technical assistance mission from Statistics Denmark on NUTS classification (*La Nomenclature des Unités Territoriales Statistiques*), as well as Statistics Italy technical assistance mission on confidentiality). Currently, the NSS is in the process of preparing a Twinning programme proposal on strengthening of the National Statistical System.[2]

133. The NSS is closely cooperating with other international donors, and their involvement is crucial to the financing of surveys and sustainability of operations. For example, the World Bank was instrumental in financing the 2001 Population Census, also providing grants for statistical capacity building and the development of the Statistical Master Plan. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has financed Demographic and Health Surveys for 2000 and 2005, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) – 2008 Labour Migration Survey; the United States-based Millennium Challenge Corporation – the Household Survey. UNECE provided a training course on National Accounts and non-observed economy in the NSS in 2007. Currently, a cooperation project with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) on social statistics and Asian Development Bank on Informal Sector Survey are ongoing.

Assessment

134. *Since the NSS is highly reliant on foreign donors, international cooperation planning, especially donor coordination is of crucial importance. Considering that there will be no follow-up for the TACIS programmes, the NSS co-operation with the European Union will have to focus on the other available instruments. Twinning in this particular case would be particularly suitable and the NSS is undertaking steps to put forth a proposal.*

4. STATISTICAL DOMAINS[3]

4.1. Classifications

135. The NSS is the government body responsible for development, implementation, and maintenance of statistical classifications. The Law on State Statistics and the Law on Standardisation of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Three-Year and Annual State Statistical Work Programmes and Annual Program for Standardisation comprise the legal

[2] Twinning provides the framework for administrations and semi-public organisations in the beneficiary countries to work with their counterparts in the EU Member States.

[3] Monetary statistics compiled by the Central Bank of Armenia and government finance statistics compiled by Ministry of Finance will not be specifically covered by this report. For extensive review of the two areas please see Republic of Armenia Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC), International Monetary Fund, 2009.

basis for the system of national classifications. National statistical classifications and their changes must be approved by the State Council on Statistics and by the Ministry of Economy, as well as registered by the Ministry of Justice as a legal act. Currently, for the NSS there is one person responsible for classifications within the Statistical Work Methodology and Classifications division. The statistical classifications are adopted after consultations with relevant users (for example, Ministries and other government bodies); however, the information given to the users about changes in classifications sometimes is not always sufficient.

136. Cooperation with the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CISSTAT) was quite beneficial in developing the system of national classifications, especially in the early stages. CISTAT provided training, expertise, and translations of classifications in Russian.

137. The NSS has been working with Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE) classification for nearly one decade. National classification of economic activities of the Republic of Armenia (TGTHD) was initially created on the basis of NACE Rev. 1, adding the 5th digit level for national purposes developed using the Classification of Kinds of Economic Activities (OKED-2) of CISSTAT. TGTHD on the basis of NACE Rev.1 was registered as a legal act on November 14th, 2001 with 2003 being the implementation deadline. It was used in the 2001 Population Census and was applied to the business register.

138. In 2003, the NSS began a review of TGTHD to ensure correspondence with NACE Rev.1.1. TGTHD on the basis of NACE Rev.1.1 came into force on December 25th, 2006. In the beginning of 2007, work on adaptation of NACE Rev.2 has begun. Based on the experience of TGTHD Rev.1.1, it was decided to reduce the number of details on the level of the 5th digit. In 2008, the translation of NACE Rev.2 and the development of TGTHD Rev. 2 were completed. TGTHD on the basis of NACE Rev.2 is expected to come into force in second quarter of 2009. Its implementation in the business register is foreseen for 2010 and in the system of national accounts – for 2012.

139. The work on developing and implementing national statistical classification of products by activities (ADTG) began in 2003. This classification was already based on the Statistical Classification of Products by Activity in the European Economic Community (CPA) 2002 and PRODCOM classifications. ADTG fully corresponds to CPA 2002 up to the 6th digit level and to PRODCOM – up to the 8th digit. The 9th digit level was added for national statistical purposes. ADTG was adopted as a legal act on February 8th, 2005. The work on implementing CPA 2008 into ADTG will start in 2009 and is expected to conclude in 2011.

140. NUTS classification does not correspond to the current administrative-territorial division of Armenia which is based on the Law on Administrative-Territorial Division of the Republic of Armenia that came into force on the 4 December, 1995. According to this Law, the administrative-territorial units of Armenia are regions (marzes) and communities (hamainkner). However, some work with NUTS classification is ongoing in the NSS: the classification has been translated, there were two study visits to the EU member states and technical assistance mission on the topic were organised in 2008.

141. The NSS has adopted the most important international classifications. The national accounts are based on and generally compliant with 1993 SNA and increasingly on the European System of Accounts (ESA95). The Harmonised System (HS) is used in the

compilation of external trade statistics. The Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) has not yet been formalised by the Ministry of Justice and is used in the NSS for the Integrated Living Conditions Survey of Households (ILCSH) and in the compilation of household consumption expenditures. Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG) is used in the compilation of the State budget data. The NSS also uses International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88), International Classification of Status in Employment (ISCE-93), and International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED-97).

Assessment

142. *The NSS is making good progress towards implementing international classifications into their national system of classifications. Classification systems used are broadly consistent with international guidelines. Implementation of CPA 2008 and ESA 95 should be enhanced.*

143. *Users expressed their need for more frequent and regular information on changes in classifications, especially regarding NACE. They would also welcome more methodological training on classifications and their implementation.*

4.2. Demographic and social statistics

4.2.1. Demographic statistics

144. Demographic statistics falls under the responsibility of Population Census and Demography Division of five staff.

145. The situation concerning the registration of different demographic events is the following:

a. Births: Births are registered by special forms at hospitals and by doctors (if home birth) and birth certificates issued by Ministry of Justice. The forms with second copies of certificates are sent to the NSS for registration. It is assumed that births are more or less 100 per cent covered; however, some *ad hoc* surveys found unreported births. Over the last few years there has also been implementation of international standards regarding registration of stillbirths, livebirths, and infant deaths

b. Deaths: Deaths are registered by special forms by doctors or hospitals. On the base of that forms deaths are issued by the Ministry of Justice and with their second copies sent to the NSS for registration

c. Migration: There is no proper registration of migrants at border checkpoints and the registration of migrants within the country is also not adequate. The statistics on migration is based on the information of the regional passport divisions of the Police who sent special statistical forms "Statistical records on arrivals" and "Statistical records on departures" which are filled during the procedure of registration and checking out of persons who appeal to the police. The 2001 Population Census allowed to correct for the relatively large migrant flows in the 1990s due to the economic crisis. After 2001 a sample survey has been conducted. However, a proper registration of migrants is still a major issue in relation to the estimations of annual population changes and as a basis for sound population projections. There are no statistics produced on asylum seekers.

d. Community registration: The head of rural communities maintains a manual overview of the population within each community. These communities cover some 1 million of the population. This registration also includes information on such features as household structure and education. The total figures of *de jure* population numbers from these registrations are used by the government as one of components for allocation of funds to support the communities and thus there has been some tendency to register more inhabitants than actually are living there. A check indicates a difference of 50-60 thousand from actual *de jure* population: the difference comprises nearly 5 percent of the total rural population and, therefore, is relatively small. However, the differences for the individual communities might be substantial and there is a general need to clarify the differences between *de jure* and *de facto* population and ensure a more consistent registration.

e. Population registers: The Law on Population Register entered into force on 1 January 2005. From 2006, the responsibility for this register was transferred to the police authorities. One important limitation of this register is that it only contains the population older than 16 year of age because it serves as a register of passports. So far the NSS has not tested the possibility of using this register in order to supplement and check its own population data. There is also a population register maintained in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for social purposes. The NSS has not utilised the content of this register.

f. Produced statistics: Based on the results of 2001 Population Census the estimation of population figures for intercensal years (all demographic indicators by the republic and by marzes) has been done. Results have been published in the Demographic Handbooks for 2004 and 2005 (in Armenian). Demographic Yearbooks of Armenia for 2006, 2007, and 2008 were published in both Armenian and English. "Demographic Outline of Southern Caucasus for 1958-1999" handbook (in English) and "Demographic Handbook of Armenia for 1940-2000" (in Armenian) have been published for the first time within the framework of cooperation program with Statistics Sweden with SIDA financial support.

Assessment

146. *Several key demographic indicators are being produced and disseminated. The user community also seems to be satisfied with positive developments in the available information as a basis for demographic analysis, as well as better reliability of data.*

147. *However, there are some major issues that should be addressed:*

a. Lack of reliable migration data;

b. Need for a precision of de facto/de jure population;

c. Modernisation of data entry and improved consistency between different population information systems;

d. Introduction of common identification numbers as a basis for coordination between these information systems;

e. Updating and linking to a common address register also as a basis for the population census.

These challenges have to be solved in cooperation between the NSS and other relevant authorities. Thus, it is proposed to establish an interagency/intergovernmental project to come up with proposals for addressing the mentioned issues, in order to develop a more consistent system for population registration. Such a project will be very important for obtaining reliable annual population figures and forming the basis for demographic projections. It would also help form an important basis for the planned population census.

4.2.2. Population census

148. The Law on Population Census (adopted on 12 October, 1999) entered into force in November 1999. It gave the guidelines for the population census, which was organised in 2001. The Law defines the tasks, requirements and responsibilities of all institutions involved in the preparation and implementation of the population census. It also regulates financial means, rights and duties of citizens, as well as the confidentiality of individual data gathered during the census. The population census in Armenia took place from the 10–19 of October 2001 (the pilot sample survey took place from the 6–15 of September 2000).

149. The major problem in conducting the 2001 Population Census was its funding. Due to the considerable efforts of the NSS and with the help of the World Bank, donors were attracted to the project: donor funds covered almost 80 percent of the census budget.

150. The final results of the 2001 Population Census have been published in 12 volumes at the national level and by 11 marzes of the republic in December 2003. In addition, the results of Population Census at the national level and 10 percent anonymous population census database on CD-ROM have been published for researchers with the support of the United States Census Bureau. The 2001 Population Census database is currently used to develop the sampling frame for the annual Integrated Living Conditions Survey.

151. A new population census is under preparation to be conducted in 2011. For this purpose a special unit will be established but further detailed plans were not presented. However, it was assumed that donor funding still would be important even if the census law states that the costs shall be covered by the state budget.

Assessment

152. *The population census is essential for updating a demographic picture of the country. The 2001 Population Census provided very valuable information and was a highly successful project, even if some information could not be utilised. It is, therefore, important to establish a plan and an organisation for the next census as soon as possible in order to ensure efficient performance. Some issues that need to be considered are:*

   a. *The establishment of a joint address register and use of geographic information systems in cooperation with the cadastral committee/mapping authorities (see also 4.2.1);*

   b. *The coverage of the census to comply with international standards and national needs;*

   c. *The use of new tools for quick and reliable data entry;*

d. There seems also to be a need to ensure coordination with the planned agricultural census on how to cover small agricultural gardens/plots that might not be part of the agricultural census.

4.2.3. Armenian Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS)

153. ILCS was first introduced in Armenia in 1996 and has been carried out in 1998/1999. Since 2001, the survey is conducted annually. Since 2007, the ILCS is co-funded by Armenia State Budget and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, with this external financing comprising a very significant part of the survey's budget.

154. ILCS sampling frame was developed with the technical assistance from the World Bank using the database of addresses obtained from the 2001 Population Census. The survey is based on a random two-step stratified sample and is conducted with a monthly rotation of households and settlements. Since 2004, the sample is representative at the regional level.

155. In 2007 ILCS, 7872 households were surveyed, of which 4416 live in urban and 3456– in rural areas. The survey was conducted by a team of 82 interviewers and 15 supervisors. Each interviewer was working in 12 enumeration areas per year, visiting 8 households every month. The participants of the field team receive a training session prior to commencing survey and the fieldwork is monitored through supervision and control interviews. Collected information is coded, logically tested, and entered into database where the data are verified and logically tested one more time, correcting the mistakes.

156. ILCS household questionnaire contains the following sections: household roster, migration, housing conditions, occupation, education, agriculture, self-employment, monetary and commodity flows, health and healthcare, savings and loans, self-assessment of well-being, social capital and service delivery, social assistance, activities of private households as employers, and undifferentiated production activities of private households.

157. Household diary records detail household food, non-food products and services expenditures, as well as food and non-food products and services the household receives for free (including gifts and humanitarian aid). Each interviewed household received AMD 1000 for keeping the household diary and were visited minimum 5 times by assigned interviewer for diary verification.

158. Although in 2007 the national participation refusal rate was below 8 percent, in Yerevan City the rate approaches 20 percent. It is noted that wealthier households may not be sufficiently captured in the survey due to their very high participation refusal rate.

159. ILCS findings are published in the annual Social Snapshot and Poverty in Armenia report which represents a good comprehensive overview of tendencies in socio-economic development and changes in poverty.

Assessment

160. *ILCS, produced with extensive cooperation of external donor agencies, provides socio-economic data and poverty measurements of adequate quality. Its methodology is consistent with international standards and practices.*

4.2.4. Labour market statistics

161. There are two main sources for statistics on the labour market: (1) administrative sources or statistical reports submitted by enterprises and organisations and (2) labour force surveys.

162. The NSS seeks to implement international definitions and standards in the field of labour market statistics, and the compliance level is considered to be relatively good, even if some improvements can be made.

163. Employment, labour cost (wages, salaries) and unemployment are the major surveys based on administrative sources. In the first survey, the data on employees of legal units is collected for the whole country on a monthly to annual basis, following ILO guidelines and RA legislation. Wage and salaries statistics are collected on a monthly basis; labour cost statistics are collected on an annual basis.

164. Data on unemployment is registered by the State Employment Agency under Ministry of Labour and Social Issues (SEA) on the basis of the Law on Social Security of Population under Employment and Unemployment on a monthly basis and submitted to the NSS.

165. Data on unemployment from the administrative sources and data from the household surveys conducted by NSS often have discrepancies, especially on the unemployment size.

166. The pilot Labour Force Survey was carried in 2008 within the TACIS Programme. The number of responding households was 2000. Information on employment in informal sector and youth labour force was the main objective of the pilot survey. Labour Force Surveys consists of two parts: a household survey and a survey of profit-making entities.

167. The household survey which main topics are employment, unemployment, economically non-active population, and hours worked has been under development for several years, partly funded as a TACIS project or from other sources. For 2007–2008, the sample size was around 7900 households.

168. The entities survey is focussing on wages/salaries and hours worked; data are collected from a sample of small and micro-sized profit-making entities. This is an annual survey from 2003 onwards.

169. Employment statistics, unemployment statistics, statistics on wages and salaries, are the data are published monthly in "Socio-economic Situation of Armenia" and annually in the Statistical Yearbook. In addition to these publications, there is a special handbook "Labour Market of the Republic of Armenia" for time periods 1990–1996, 1997–2003, and 2003–2007.

Assessment

170. *The NSS produces and disseminates some main labour market indicators but there is a need for several improvement actions. The main challenge is to develop the labour force survey into the main tool for regularly obtaining data on employment and unemployment. Furthermore, the legislation and practice in this area should be harmonised with international definitions/standards.*

4.2.5. Education statistics

171. Education statistics is handled in the Social Sphere and Nature Protection Division. This division has altogether 7 employees and assumes responsibility also for other areas, such as health, social, and nature protection statistics.

172. Only data on general education are received from administrative source, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Science. However, the NSS also collects information from state and private entities and thus has a more exhaustive coverage. International Standard Classification of Education 1997 (ISCED97) has been implemented. The NSS also submits statistics on education and training to international organisations such as UNICEF, UNESCO, as well as CISSTAT.

173. Education indicators are produced on an annual basis and mainly disseminated in the Statistical Yearbook. In addition to these publications, there is a special handbook – "Social Situation of the Republic of Armenia" published annually since 1999.

Assessment

174. *The main elements of education statistics are being produced partly by the NSS and partly by the Ministry of Education and Science. The approximation to the European legislation in the field of education and vocational training is a major challenge and will require cooperation between relevant authorities, as well as extra resources.*

4.2.6. Health statistics

175. As education statistics, health statistics is also handled in the Social Sphere and Nature Protection Division. Most of the statistics are based on administrative sources, mainly under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health. The Ministry also publishes much of the same information in the area as the NSS. However, there are some differences in the timing of publications of the two organisations.

176. The NSS publishes such health indicators as morbidity of population by classes and types of diseases, health care resources and health care establishments by regions, immunisation (annual data using administrative source of information), infectious and parasitic diseases (annual), results of zero positive testing for HIV (quarterly), as well as basic disability statistics (first-time recognised disability by causes and severity, children recognised as disabled and receiving social pensions, caretaking institutions for disabled and elderly).

177. A joint Armenian Demographic and Health Survey (ADHS) was performed in 2005 in cooperation with Ministry of Health and funded and supported by USAID, UNICEF and UNFPA. The purpose of the 2005 ADHS was to collect national and regional level data on fertility and contraceptive use, maternal and child health, adult health, as well as AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases. Thus, much of the information collected in the survey represents updated estimates of basic health and demographic indicators covered in the 2000 ADHS. The survey obtained detailed information on these issues from women of reproductive ages and, on certain topics, from men as well. Data are presented by regions when sample size permits.

178. The NSS publishes health statistics regularly in the monthly publication "Socio-economic Situation of Armenia", in the Statistical Yearbook, as well as in the special handbook "Social Situation of the Republic of Armenia".

Assessment

179. *The central elements of health statistics are covered, partly through administrative sources and partly through the specific health surveys. However, meeting the requirements of the European legislation in this area will pose additional challenges requiring development project and resources. One issue to be further looked into is also some duplication in the dissemination of health statistics between the NSS and the Ministry of Health.*

4.2.7. Social protection statistics

180. As education and health statistics, social protection statistics is also produced within the same Social Sphere and Nature Protection Division. Administrative sources, mainly handled by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, are important and provide the following indicators: disabled people (6-monthly), adoptions (6-monthly), number of pensioners and average size of pensions (6-monthly), number of beneficiaries and benefit sizes (6-monthly), and employment accidents and injuries (annual). The NSS also collects information from state and private entities on children homes and establishments of social services for elderly (both annual).

181. In addition, social protection statistics are collected through specific surveys (for instance on disability) mainly with external funding and support.

Assessment

182. *Some key areas of social protection statistics are covered with statistics on a regular basis. However, the implementation of regular sample surveys to complement the administrative sources might be necessary.*

4.3. Macroeconomic statistics

183. The Sustainable Development Program (SDP) approved by the Government of Republic of Armenia on 30 October 2008 is expected to become the backbone of economic policy in Armenia. The SDP focuses on active social policies targeting the vulnerable segments of society, regional policies to reduce regional disparities, development of Armenia into a knowledge-based economy, and intensified integration with the EU as part of the European Neighbourhood policy including legislative and institutional approximation of EU standards. This development will create a demand for more detail in macroeconomic statistics, including extra detail on information and communication technology, foreign direct investment, regional accounts, and satellite accounts.

4.3.1. National accounts

184. There are 7 members of staff at the Macroeconomic Indicators and National Accounts division. This is not sufficient to compile detailed accounts. Staff turnover is an issue due to the much higher salaries paid by the Central Bank and by private banks. The IT system for national accounts compilation is based largely on Excel.

185.The division responsible for balance of payments and external trade statistics has 6 employees, the Finance Statistics division also has 6 employees, and Methodology and Classification division has 5 employees.

186. The NSS produces quarterly as well as annual non-financial accounts. The first (flash) estimate for annual GDP is released on 20 January; a more detailed revised set of accounts is released 90 days after the end of the reference year. The annual accounts are revised again 12 months later. The 4 quarters are benchmarked to the annual results using the Bench software of Statistics Canada (Denton method).

187. The national accounts are based on the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA93) and – increasingly – on ESA95. Time series are available since 1990 for annual accounts and since 1992 for quarterly accounts. Estimates of the non-observed economy are included in GDP since 1994. The non-observed economy represented approximately 24–25 percent of GDP in 2007. Sub-sector accounts are compiled since 2001. A complete set of non-financial accounts is compiled annually.

188. The financial accounts are in the pilot phase at the present. Work is ongoing to establish supply-use and input-output tables.

189. The main approach for compiling the national accounts is the production approach. GDP and components are also compiled by the expenditure approach. Discrepancies between the two approaches are small (2 to 4 percent for annual accounts) and are published as such.

190. The quarterly accounts are published as discrete quarters since 1992. However, the source data for the quarterly accounts are on a cumulative basis, that is, the data are collected for the first quarter, followed by cumulated first two quarters and then the cumulated first three quarters. This means that the data for the second and third quarters have to be derived as a difference. This method is unsatisfactory as any revisions to the early quarters are attributed to the last quarter. Quarterly accounts are published 90 days after the end of the quarter. The work on monthly discrete reporting form on industrial production has already begun. Eventually, quarterly accounts are planned to be compiled on the discrete basis.

191. There is no benchmark approach to the compilation of the annual accounts and no major revision policy. The revisions of macroeconomic indicators are published in the state statistical work program, for example, the item 8 of the Annex 1 of the 2009 State Statistical Work Program (published on 12 December 2008) titled “Recalculation of quarterly GDP by NACE for 2000–2004” which is to be implemented in the forth quarter of 2009. So far, the methodological and data revisions have been introduced on an *ad hoc* basis when they were ready. Examples include major improvements to the balance of payments in 2004 and in price statistics affecting the price indices for services and construction.

192. The main data sources for quarterly accounts are the monthly and quarterly sample surveys conducted by the business statistics, trade statistics and agriculture statistics divisions, as well as government finance and balance of payments data. A special unified national accounts survey is conduced with an own sample of about 2300 enterprises. This unified survey is on a discrete basis. It is mainly used to determine intermediate consumption and as a check for the output derived from the much larger business statistics samples (quarterly sample for manufacturing is about 2000 and for trade about 5000 units). The work is ongoing to improve the source data, for example, getting the balance sheet data from the tax authorities.

193. Price and volume measures (constant prices) are based on quite comprehensive price indices the quality of which is good for consumer price index (CPI), agricultural prices, and producer price indices (PPIs) for mining and manufacturing. The biggest concern is construction where the construction price index uses a weight structure from 1984.

194. Review of methodology to ensure exhaustiveness of GDP:

a. The non-observed economy (NOE) is estimated by the national accounts division on the basis of labour force survey and ILCS data compared to business statistics (labour method). The agriculture division makes separate estimates for NOE in agriculture using surveys and volume data (including area data). In the future, the NSS wants to implement the Eurostat Tabular Approach to further improve the quality of the NOE estimates.

b. Own account production of food in agriculture is included. There are no economic accounts for agriculture yet.

c. The NSS confirms that income-in-kind including canteens for employees are not common and therefore an unimportant item in Armenia.

d. Currently there is no need for imputations on social security: there are no unfunded employer systems; in particular, all government employees are in the standard social security system.

e. Investment is captured through various surveys. An allowance for own account construction by households is included in the source data (a price times volume approach based on costs per square meter is used in construction statistics). Computer software and own account capital formation by enterprises is captured via surveys.

f. The cut-off limit for investment items of small value ("small tools") is that of the business accounting.

g. Tips are captured on the basis of coefficients derived from a survey.

h. Bankruptcies are captured via the annual business register updating survey.

i. Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM) is not yet allocated. Total FISIM is about 2 percent of GDP so the impact of FISIM allocation on GDP should be below 1 percent.

j. Agricultural livestock and research and development expenditure are treated correctly.

k. Government consumption of fixed capital is compiled using coefficients applied to historical values. Consumption of fixed capital (CFC) is also estimated for roads and other infrastructure. The values are implausibly low (for roads less than 1 percent of total CFC in the economy).

l. Changes in inventories are compiled from the sample survey that covers large enterprises.

m. Owner-occupied dwellings represent about 95 percent of all dwellings. No estimate is currently included in GDP. There is no representative housing market and, thus, no reliable source of information: rent agreements are usually not registered and rent

market is hidden. In principle, the user-cost approach should be applied. The NSS reported that communicating to the users the need for the imputation of owner-occupied dwellings in GDP has been difficult.

n. On accrual recording of taxes on products, the NSS confirmed that accrual adjustment will be introduced in the national accounts, as long as the government finance statistics compiled by the Ministry of Finance remained not on an accrual basis.

195. At present, no regional accounts are compiled due to lack of resources, even if the data to do this would be available.

196. Users demand longer time series and greater detail and scope of the national accounts data sets, in particular, financial accounts and input-output tables for analytical purposes. The lack of funds and skilled staff makes it difficult to satisfy these demands.

4.3.2. External trade statistics (goods)

197. The Balance of Payments and External Trade Statistics Division produces monthly external trade statistics (ETS) based on the customs declarations and special sources for electricity and gas. Preliminary data are released on the 20th day of the following month, and revised date on the 30th day. The final annual data are released in May of the following year.

198. The NSS receives the data from the customs authorities in the HS classification in a format defined by the NSS. Two datasets are received: the declarations of legal persons and the declarations of private persons. No corrections for underreporting to the received data are said to be necessary.

199. For the use of the ETS data for the balance of payments, the NSS makes corrections for timing and for c.i.f/f.o.b. A sample survey was made in 2001 to determine the c.i.f/f.o.b correction.

200. External trade in large military items without civil use is not recorded. Large equipment (for example, aircraft) in captured by the customs authorities via a special form. The NSS reported that financial leasing is correctly treated.

4.3.3. Balance of payments

201. The Balance of Payments and External Trade Statistics Division produces quarterly balance of payments statistics from a variety of sources (customs, CBA, MoF, and Department of Migration). BOP follows Balance of Payments Manual, fifth edition (BPM5) by the IMF. The results are available on the 90th day after the end of the reference period and the final revision of annual data - after 180 days.

202. Trade in services is largely based on expert assessment and partly informed by business surveys. The NSS conducts quarterly surveys of private non-financial companies covering communication, transportation, computing, and other services. Data on tourists are available from hotels and from the Department on Migration. CBA compiles data on financial services of the banking sector.

203. For remittances, there is now a good basis for correcting the data from the banking system and for splitting the private transfers and identifying the part of investment. Remittances are increased to allow for cash inflows and outflows. Sources include the

household budget survey and surveys conducted by CBA. A committee on external data issues comprised of representatives from NSS, CBA, and MoF follows the data closely.

4.3.4. Foreign direct investment, international investment position, external debt

204. The Balance of Payments and External Trade Statistics Division also produces foreign direct investment and international investment position statistics. Foreign direct investment statistics is based on a quarterly survey of non-financial companies conduced by the NSS. The enterprises are identified from the business register and from the media. CBA provides the data on banking sector and financial companies; MoF provides information on the public sector. International investment position statistics is based on the BOP, data from CBA, data from the Government, and the NSS calculations. Market prices are not used for external debt because there is no exchange for many of the instruments.

4.3.5. Price statistics

205. Price Statistics and International Comparison division comprises six civil servants and two contract staff in the centre and 2 to 3 price observers in each observation city. In total there are 33 persons responsible for price observations. The division produces CPI, PPIs, agricultural price indices (for both sales of products and agricultural input prices), external trade indices, the transport prices, and the inputs for the purchasing power parities.

206. The last purchasing power parities round was in 2005 and the new round refers to the one in 2008, coordinated by the OECD.

4.3.5.1.Consumer Price Index

207. The CPI is published on the last day of the relevant month and is based on 3 price observations per month. Observations are made in different outlets (including open markets) and in 11 regions. Weighting of cities and rural areas is based on trade turnover and population.

208. The weights are estimated from the 2005 ILCS results and are revised every 3-5 years. The 2005 CPI weights are 53.91 percent for food, 16.18 percent for non-food items, and 29.91 percent for services. The weighting ensures correct representation of own consumption and correction for underreporting (for example, cigarettes, alcohol, private cars). For housing, the payments for municipal services and the actual rentals are included. There are no measurement problems for telecommunication products. Currently owner-occupied dwellings are not covered by the CPI sources (except partially for maintenance and repair expenditures) but the NSS follows the discussions on recording owner-occupied dwellings in the CPI.

209. Since 2005/2006 the observations are made for 470 products. Data are published by COICOP main headings, by 67 groups, by region, and by individual products.

4.3.5.2.Producer Price Indices

210. Work on improving the PPIs is ongoing with the new sample, new weights and the new base year (2008). The new methodology was approved by the State Council on Statistics in February 2009. The new collection will involve 413 units and 1240 products based on the CPA classification, while the current collection involves 254 units, 888 products and

is based on a special CIS classification of products. The coverage is NACE Rev. 1.1 C, D and E. No services are covered.

4.3.5.3.Construction price indices

211. The construction price index and the price index of construction assembly work are produced by the Ministry of Urban Development. A Centre for Construction Prices under the ministry regularly monitors the prices of about 1000 items and compiles an index. The weight structure (basket) is from 1984 which raises very major quality reservations.

212. There was a survey in 2006 conducted by the NSS to help improve the index and to develop a new basket. However, this new basket is not yet in use in the Ministry of Urban Development due to logistical reasons.

4.3.5.4.Other price indices

213. House prices are collected by the cadastre committee and given to the NSS on a quarterly basis. There are quality problems to adjust for different types of houses and as the prices reported to the committee seem to be biased downwards for tax reasons (property tax based on cadastre value). No indices are published.

214. Export and import price indices are unit value indices and are published monthly for the CIS countries, the EU, and the rest of the world. It is planned to move towards using prices for imports of partner countries and export prices of domestic producers in future.

215. The NSS compiles and disseminates freight tariff index data for road, railway, air, and pipeline. All 29 freight establishments are included in the index. The weights for the indices depend on the revenues of the freight establishments for the previous year.

216. The NSS plans to develop an Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices in addition to the national CPI under the 2010-2012 Three-Year State Statistical Work Programme.

Assessment

217. *At present, the Armenian national accounts are compliant with ESA95 in many areas; however, the compliance is not full, in particular as regards exhaustiveness. GDP levels are probably underestimated due to the non-inclusion of imputed rents for owner-occupied dwellings, the underestimation of consumption of fixed capital of non-market producers, and the non-allocation of FISIM. There is a need to conduct a special survey to estimate imputed rents for owner-occupied dwellings.*

218. *The NSS would like to use the tabular approach to ensure exhaustive coverage of GDP.*

219. *In general, the source data for the national accounts are of good or acceptable quality. This includes business statistics, ILCS, agriculture surveys, balance of payments statistics, and government finance statistics.*

220. *Some of the coefficients (based on sample surveys) underlying the corrections for underreporting and hidden activities as done in the source statistics divisions (for example, for construction, retail trade, passenger transport or restaurants) would need updating.*

221. *The use of cumulative surveys poses a problem for quarterly accounts; therefore, the collection of non-cumulative data should be started, and work has started in this regard. In addition to the use of new survey forms, this transfer will require education of respondents to ensure correct results.*

222. *There is no clear policy for implementing and communicating major revisions to users. It is clear that, in light of future activities, such as 2011 Population Census, the agricultural census, the implementation of NACE Rev.2, this will require a major revision.*

223. *There are several issues in price statistics: owner-occupied dwellings should be reflected in the CPI and the construction price index estimation should be improved. For the former the NSS should evaluate different available approaches; thus, improving relevant CPI sources will be necessary. For the latter, the outdated weight structure presents considerable quality problems and the findings of the 2005 NSS survey should be implemented as soon as possible.*

4.4. Business statistics

4.4.1. Short-term business statistics

224. NSS conducts monthly surveys of industrial enterprises which provide information on manufacturing, mining, gas, water, and electricity. For small, medium, and big enterprises the survey is exhaustive with around 2300 units surveyed monthly. Quarterly sample surveys are used for the micro units.

225. Monthly and annual data are collected from all enterprises with 20 and more employees through exhaustive surveys and enterprises with the number of employees less 20 are surveyed based on sampling. Data of the sample surveys are extrapolated over the general population of enterprises.

226. NSS produces the following indicators: monthly industrial production index, monthly industrial production index by economic activity, monthly output and sales by type of industry, region, and enterprise size. Monthly industrial production index, output and sales are disseminated in monthly publication "Socio-Economic Situation of Republic of Armenia".

Assessment

227. *The NSS produces a number of essential short-term business statistics indicators; short-term business statistics scope, however, should be enhanced.*

4.4.2. Energy statistics

228. Energy statistics is produced by the Industry Statistics Division, where 2 persons are involved in collecting energy statistics. Division uses 1 monthly, 1 quarterly and 5 annual questionnaires on energy statistics. Data are collected from enterprises in different ways (for example, by mail or phone). Questionnaires follow the national accounts requirements. The classification of enterprises corresponds to the TGTHD based on NACE.

229. Data are published monthly (Socio-economic Situation in Armenia, “The main indicators of industry by type of economic activity (in value, number of employees and by regions (marzes)”, “The production of main commodities of products (in kind)”) and the

Statistical Yearbook. In addition to these publications, special handbooks “Industry of the Republic of Armenia for 1990–1997” and “Industry of the Republic of Armenia for 1998–2003” were released. The next handbook “Industry of the Republic of Armenia for 2004–2008” will be published in the fourth quarter of 2009.

230. The NSS is responsible for the energy balance calculations; however, the national energy balance is currently not compiled. The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources is interested in close cooperation with the NSS and this process may improve the reliability and quality of energy statistics.

231. Division work was considerably supported by the TACIS programme: a sample survey was conducted to obtain some data from industrial and transport enterprises needed to compile the energy balance.

232. The major problem is the lack of data on consumption of primary and secondary energy resources in industry sectors needed to compile the energy balance.

Assessment

233. *To compile the national energy balance, the NSS would need to implement additional surveys and to improve the data on consumption of primary and secondary energy resources. Although the NSS is committed to developing energy balances in the near future, the lack of funds is a challenge in this regard.*

234. *New EU regulation on energy statistics has been adopted in October 2008. It could be a good basis for NSS to consider implementing EU standards in annual and monthly energy statistics.*

235. *Working Group on energy balances was established as an inter-institutional body. This group could be an important forum for future discussions related to the improvement of energy statistics, including energy balances, also to take both the requirements of international organisations and the needs of domestic users of energy data into account.*

236. *NSS has provided the new combined proposal for EU-financed Twinning project on strengthening of the National Statistical System. Energy balance compilation is the one of the components of the project proposal. Such Twinning could effectively jump-start the development of energy balance that follows the international standards and requirements.*

4.4.3. Transport statistics

237. Transport and Communication Statistics Division has 5 employees and uses 7 monthly, 8 quarterly and 16 annual questionnaires. Statistics on transport are collected through statistical surveys for each transport modes – road, railway, air, pipeline and other (electric transport). The division receives considerable from external donors to develop the different areas of transport statistics, especially from the TACIS Programme.

238. There is a close co-operation with the Ministry of Transport and Communication, police, and other relevant state bodies. The Ministry of Transport and Communication collects a large amount of data on roads and roads construction, as well as on road construction equipment.

239. Starting from 2001, the classification of enterprises follows the TGTHD based on NACE. For the evaluation of individual enterprises the method of sample survey is used.

The data from the sample survey are extrapolated to the general population of enterprises. The data are collected from the enterprises by different methods (for example, mail or phone).

240. Road transport is the main type of transport-communication in Armenia. However, road transport activity belongs to the most characteristic fields of non-observed economy, which raises additional difficulties for statistical office to produce qualitative and reliable statistical data on the private sector for road passenger transport as well for transportation of goods.

241. It was noted that some road transport organisations perform passenger transportation in regions (marzes) independently from the place of registration. This situation creates difficulties for the NSS to produce data on activity of road transport organisations, implementing regional breakdown of passenger transportations.

242. Within the TACIS Programme a sample survey of urban and intra-urban passenger transportations in Armenia was conducted in 2006 and a number of reliable indicators was produced: passengers for every single route for different hours of a day (peak-hours, and off-peak hours), average distances of the passenger travel, minibuses and buses in stock and in use, average monthly working days, average daily working hours for a motor vehicle. As a result of this survey, additional statistical data was collected and the methodology on road transport was improved to increase compliance with the international standards. This survey was also used for the estimation of hidden volumes of passenger transportations.

243. Data on transport statistics are published monthly and yearly ("Social and Economic Situation in Armenia" and the Statistical Yearbook). In addition to these publications, a special 5-year handbook "Transport and Communication of the Republic of Armenia for 1999–2003" was compiled. Transport and communication handbook for the period 2000–2008 will be published in November 2009.

Assessment

244. *Transport statistics is quite well developed, especially for railway, air, pipeline and electric transport; however, there is a need to improve information on transport by private operators, as well as the data on road transport. As part of the general policy of the Armenian authorities, the NSS is moving its statistical system towards the European standards. In the case of transport statistics this implies the harmonisation itself (for producing comparable data) and the improvement of methodology and surveying methods.*

245. *The main challenges in transport statistics are related to passenger and cargo transport. A pilot survey on urban and intra-urban passenger transportations has been carried out. This survey should be carried out on a regular basis. The additional survey on transportation of goods by roads is needed.*

246. *Lack of reliable data on taxi services is a major challenge which should be addressed.*

247. *Ministry of Transport and Communication collects a large amount of data on transport, especially on road transport. The NSS should exploit the possibility to obtain all available administrative register data from the Ministry and to adapt it to the transport statistics purposes.*

4.4.4. Tourism statistics

248. Since 2001 the NSS, following the methodology of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), has been keeping statistics of international and internal tourism. Tourism statistics is the responsibility of the Balance of Payments and External Trade Statistics division (1 employee allocated).

249. The NSS collects the quarterly data on tourist stays in hotels; from the tourist agencies they obtain data on outbound tourism. Quarterly data on tourism flows is received from the Migration Agency which, in turn, compiles the information from several administrative sources.

250. In 2006-2007, a survey at border entry points on tourism flows (including such indicators as destination, goals of visit, means of transport, and trip expenditures) was conducted with partial financing from the USAID. The survey provided highly useful data that are still applied in assessing the tourism sector activities. In 2001, a similar study was conducted with the help from the TACIS programme.

Assessment

251. *Only a rather small percentage of inbound tourism is captured by currently used methods. Diaspora-related tourism activities that usually exclude stays at hotels or use of official tourism establishments comprises a large share of total tourism but largely falls outside of scope of currently conducted surveys. Therefore, it is important to improve the capture of tourism data, for example, by periodically conducting studies similar to the 2006-2007 survey at border entry points.*

252. *The NSS is interested in developing tourism satellite accounts; however, the progress is hindered by lack of human and financial resources. Although some indicators of tourism satellite accounts, such as tourism revenues and expenditures, as well as goals of tourist trips, are available, more studies would need to be conducted and more staff would need to be allocated to this particular area.*

4.4.5. Construction statistics

253. Construction statistics falls under the responsibility of Construction Statistics Division which employs 5 people.

254. In producing construction statistics, the NSS cooperates with the Ministry of Urban Development which provides building permit data, information about licences for construction activities, and estimated cost of construction for $1m^2$ (based on the type of construction of state projects). The NSS receives data on road construction from the Ministry of Transport. Collecting information on illegal or unlicensed construction is the responsibility of the Ministry of Urban Development; however, such information, although requested, is currently not being provided to the NSS.

255. The NSS conducts exhaustive surveys of construction companies which capture their activities quite well. However, estimating individual housing construction which currently accounts for around 70 percent of all construction activities is problematic: most individual houses are built by using private unlicensed labour and not official construction firms; this results in the difference being difficult to account for. The value for licensed individual housing construction is currently estimated by using the Ministry of Urban Development data on housing areas from building permits and the estimated average cost

for $1m^2$ of construction. In addition, to supplement the provided information, the NSS conducts quarterly visits to individual housing construction sites to observe the readiness of housing.

Assessment

256. *Construction is a very important part of Armenian GDP (comprising a share of 27 percent); therefore, it is important to estimate the sector as accurately as possible. Currently, construction activities that do not have a permit are not sufficiently captured. In this regard, it is important to enhance the cooperation between the NSS and the Ministry of Urban Development which would benefit the estimation of the unofficial construction activities.*

4.4.6. Business registers

257. The NSS maintains a statistical business register since 1999. It falls under the responsibility of the Business Register Division employing 4 people.

258. Statistical business register is linked to two separate administrative registers: administrative register at the Ministry of Justice (Agency of State Register of Legal Persons) and the tax register. The former is the legal registration of businesses with an issue of an identification number. It contains the business name and address but not a specification of the activity code. The tax register contains only a code for tax purposes and is updated annually.

259. The Agency of State Register together with the World Bank is developing a project to issue a tax code automatically during enterprise's legal registration. This would represent an important step both towards merging the administrative and tax registers and towards a unique enterprise identification number.

260. The statistical business register includes about 12 thousand active entities. In addition to containing legal registration identification number and tax number, it also includes main and secondary activities of the unit, its turnover, and number of employees.

261. Units in the statistical business register fall into four groups, for example in industry: micro (5 employees or less), small (6-50 employees), medium (51-100 employees), and large (more than 100 employees). Statistical business register is updated via annual exhaustive questionnaire and is used as a basis for sampling for business surveys.

262. As specified in the normative act "On keeping business (entrepreneurial) register in the Republic of Armenia" which was approved by the State Council on Statistics in 2001, the NSS has developed a strategy for setting up and maintaining a comprehensive statistical business register that would be crosschecked on a regular basis with other administrative registers, as well as sample surveys. The process is scheduled to be completed by end-2009. Some discussion on establishing a country-wide unique identification code for units has been ongoing.

Assessment

263. *Currently the statistical business register to a large degree relies on combined information from other administrative registers; therefore, it is directly influenced by the quality of these registers and necessitates regular crosschecks. Difficulties with maintaining the statistical business register (for example, it is difficult to find some*

enterprises for follow-ups) are being encountered However, recent developments regarding legal and tax registers are promising.

4.5. Agriculture statistics

264. Agriculture Statistics Division has 5 employees and collects data using 11 monthly, 8 quarterly, and 20 annual questionnaires. There are some 201 contract workers who collect data in the field. In addition to collecting data for the exhaustive surveys and the sample survey, they also collect agricultural prices for products at farm level. The division has received considerable support from external donors to help develop the different areas of agricultural statistics.

265. Data are collected from some 100 agricultural enterprises, some 866 rural communities and around 340 000 farms by exhaustive method. Data collected by exhaustive surveys are number of cattle and area for agricultural crops.

266. Response to the full coverage surveys is obligatory and administrative fines can be - and have been - issued, even if the focus is on cooperation and avoiding the imposition of penalties.

267. A sample survey covering 7638 farms from 201 rural communities is performed each month covering different aspects of the farm production more in detail. The sample size represents a near doubling from 3640 surveyed farms from late 1990s. The sample has increased considerably and the results are considered to be relatively reliable, also by the Ministry of Agriculture. However, the lack of both a proper farm register and a full agricultural census makes it difficult to assess in detail to what degree the sample reflects the total population of farms.

268. Ensuring quality for the data provided by the local communities has been an issue, particularly since this data are being partly used for the allocation of agricultural subsidies. Representatives from regional statistical offices do some control of data by visiting farms and communities.

269. Data are being entered and edited at the regional offices and only aggregate, tabular data are sent to the central office. The NSS, however, has immediate and full access to the microdata on demand.

270. There is a close co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and State Committee on Cadastre under the Government of Republic of Armenia, territorial government bodies, and local self-government bodies.

271. A new Law on Agricultural Census has been adopted in 2008. This Law has rather ambitious objectives which include the formation of a complete statistical data system on agriculture and the formation of statistical register for agricultural units, in addition to the collection of a broad range of data. The Law states that agricultural census should be conducted every ten years: the Government must issue an official decision on conducting this census a year before the start of the first census.

272. Data are published monthly ("Socio-Economic Situation in Armenia"), quarterly (in quarterly bulletins) and yearly (Statistical yearbook). In addition to these publications, there are special handbooks “Agriculture in the Republic of Armenia for 1990-1999” and “Agriculture in the Republic of Armenia for 2000-2005”.

273. There were complaints from representatives from Ministry of Agriculture concerning the lack of detail in the published material and problems getting more detailed information on an *ad hoc* basis.

Assessment

274. *Statistics on agriculture is an important area, which is relatively well covered through different surveys, The main issues to be further considered are:*

a. The issue of definition of agricultural units needs to be solved in Armenia, based on the Agricultural Law.

b. The creation of the administrative register of agricultural units is an urgent priority that calls for proactive actions from the main organizations concerned. The idea of such a register has been around for some time: the NSS has proposed that the responsibility for this register should be in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture but data access to the NSS should be allowed. In the Government work program of 2009, Ministry of Agriculture was given responsibility by June 2009 to draw up main principles and the structure for creating an administrative register for agricultural units that could also be used to obtain statistical data. These principles and structure would then serve as a basis for a potential government regulation. The timeline for any further progress in this area remains undefined.

c. The timing of the agricultural census remains uncertain. Conducting population census in 2011 would prepare a very good basis for efficient organisation of agriculture census; therefore, conducting the latter a short time after the former is beneficial.

d. The lack of cattle identification system remains an issue. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for this task. However, currently cattle are not being identified and it creates additional problems with producing precise livestock statistics.

e. Until now farms have been exempted from taxation and, thus, no farm accounting information has been available. The development of farm accounting information should be supported.

f. Users ask for more detailed data which are adapted to their needs; therefore, the dissemination function and, especially, the possibility for ad hoc elaboration of tables should be developed. This requires additional resources for targeted surveys

4.6. Multi-domain statistics

4.6.1. Environment statistics

275. Environment statistics is collected and produced by the Social Statistics Division where 2 persons are assigned to the task. The Member of the Council responsible for environment statistics is deeply involved in the issues of production of environmental statistics, especially in the methodological work and in coordination of cooperation between the NSS and relevant ministries and agencies.

276. The division uses 24 questionnaires on environment statistics. Statistical data on environment are collected by the NSS; administrative register data also are used. The data produced by the NSS and summary data from administrative registers of the Ministry of

Nature Protection, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Bio-Resource Management Agency, State Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Service, Water Resource Management Agency, among others, served as a basis for composing the yearly handbook “Environment and natural resources in the Republic of Armenia“.

277. It was mentioned that methodological work has begun, as part of the project to implement environmental satellite accounts according the 2007-2009 State Statistical Work Programme and within the environment statistics cooperation project with SIDA.

278. It is planned to produce an ecological atlas of Armenia together with the Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economy, and Ministry of Emergency Situations. The project aims to evaluate the extent of environmental pollution.

Assessment

279. *In general, a considerable amount of environmental statistics and indicators of acceptable quality are being compiled and disseminated with very small human resources. There is an ongoing cooperation with the Ministry of Nature Protection. This inter-institutional cooperation should be further deepened, especially since the Ministry is expanding its environmental data collection.*

280. *The field of environmental statistics needs to be expanded, for example by creating regional databases and developing accounting frameworks. The development of environmental accounts and the monitoring of sustainable development indicators have recently received support which enables this work to continue.*

281. *With the expansion of environmental statistics it might be necessary to look into the organisation of this activity in order to benefit from close integration with other relevant subject areas, possibly by studying the sector practices implemented in other countries.*

4.6.2. Statistics on information and communication technologies

282. The NSS collects statistical indicators, including the indicators on information and communication technologies (ICT) according to the State Statistical Annual Work Programme. Data collection are implemented according to the monthly state statistical Reporting Form 1-IT (Information Technology), put into force by the resolution of the State Council on Statistics in 2005.

283. State statistical Reporting Form 1-IT is submitted monthly by legal persons and individual entrepreneurs implementing activity in the field of IT. The data are published in the 'Social-economic Situation of the Republic of Armenia' information monthly report, 'Regions (Marzes) of the Republic of Armenia in Figures', 'Armenia in Figures', 'RA Trade and Services' handbooks and in the Statistical Yearbook.

284. The system of indicators corresponds to Code 72 "Computer and related activities" of the Section K of the NACE classification.

285. The total volume of information technologies (goods and services) in the reference period and corresponding period of the previous year includes the following: software development and consultancy in that field, data processing, hardware consultancy, database activities, and other services.

286. The NSS closely cooperates with the Association for Information Technologies. Currently the two organisations are working to implement a project for electronic collection of the Reporting From 1-IT. The work is currently ongoing and the electronic collection of data is planned to begin in 2009.

Assessment

287. *ICT data are widely required by the statistical information users; the relative importance of the ICT statistics area will continue to increase.*

288. *The electronic collection of reporting forms from organisations active in the IT field is an important step in developing electronic reporting forms for other statistics areas and will serve as an important pilot in this regard.*

289. *Although main ICT indicators are produced by the NSS; the lack of funds does not allow conducting additional surveys, for example on ICT use by the business sphere.*

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: AGENDA AND PERSONS MET DURING ASSESSMENT MISSIONS

First Assessment Mission

Wednesday, 21 January

13:00 – 17:00 Introductory meeting with the National Statistical Service (NSS) top management: overview of legislation, structure and coordination of national statistical system, organization of national statistical service, planning and programming

NSS participants: Mr. S. Mnatsakanyan, President; Mr. L. Mirzoyan, Vice President; Mr. G. Gevorgyan, Member of State Council on Statistics(Responsible for Demography, Sociology and Public Activity); Mr. G. Ananyan, Member of State Council on Statistics (Responsible for Entrepreneurial Activity Management); Mr. A. Shaboyan, Member of State Council on Statistics (Responsible for Finance, Credit and Banking); Mr. V. Davtyan, Member of State Council on Statistics (Responsible for Information Technologies); Mr. Y. Poghosyan, Member of State Council on Statistics (Responsible for Nature Protection); Mr. A. Aghazaryan, Member of State Council on Statistics (Responsible for Regional Statistics); Mr. A. Hayrapetyan, Chief of Staff; Ms. A. Safyan, Head of International Statistical Co-operation Division

Complete assessor team

Thursday, 22 January

09:00 – 13:00 In-depth review of legislation, organization of national statistical system and national statistical service, and NSS resources

*NSS participants***:** Mr. S. Mnatsakanyan, President, Mr. L. Mirzoyan, Vice President; Mr. G. Gevorgyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Mr. G. Ananyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Mr. A. Shaboyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Mr. V. Davtyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Mr. A. Hayrapetyan, Chief of Staff; K. Kuyumjyan, Head of Population Census and Demography Division; Ms. L. Petrosyan, Head of Statistical Work Methodology and Classifications Division

Complete assessor team

13:00 – 13:30 In-depth review of legislation

*NSS participants***:** Ms. L. Khachatryan, Leading specialist, Juridical Division

Assessor: Heinrich Bruengger

12:00 – 13:00 Side meeting with IMF Resident Representative Office on IMF evaluation of statistical data system and Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes for Armenia

IMF: Ms. Nienke Oomes, Resident Representative in Armenia; Ms. Armineh Manookian, Economics; Mr. Ara Stepanyan, Economist

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Anton Steurer, Alina Milasiute

14:00 – 15:30 Review of national accounts

*NSS participants***:** Mr. A. Shaboyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Ms. L. Khachatryan, Head of Macroeconomic Indicators and National Accounts Division

Assessors: Heinrich Bruengger, Tiina Luige, Anton Steurer, Alina Milasiute

15:30 – 16:15 Meeting with Central Bank Statistics Department Representatives

Central Bank: Ms. Sona Abrahamyan; Ms. Lusine Harutyunyan; Ms.Anoush Davtyan

Assessors: Heinrich Bruengger, Tiina Luige, Anton Steurer, Alina Milasiute

16:15 – 17:00 Meeting with Deputy Minister from Ministry of Economy

Ministry of Economy: Mr. Vahe Danielyan

Assessors: Heinrich Bruengger, Tiina Luige, Anton Steurer, Alina Milasiute

14:00 – 16:30 Review of demographic statistics

*NSS participants***:** Mr. G. Gevorgyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Ms. K. Kuyumjyan, Head of Population Census and Demography Division; Ms. A. Safyan, Head of International Statistical Co-operation Division

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Arvydas Andreikenas

16:30 – 17:00 Meeting with representatives of scientific community

Scientific community representatives: Mr. Martin Fagradyan, State Economic University of Armenia; Mr. Tigran Arzumanyan, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Arvydas Andreikenas

Friday, 23 January

09:00 – 10:30 Review of price statistics

NSS participants: Mr. A. Shaboyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Mr. G. Martirosyan, Head of Prices and International Comparisons Division

Assessors: Heinrich Bruengger, Tiina Luige, Anton Steurer, Alina Milasiute

09:00 – 10:30 Review of statistics on agriculture and forestry

*NSS participants***:** Mr. G. Ananyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Mr. A. Avagyan, Head of Agriculture Statistics Division

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Arvydas Andreikenas

10:30 – 13:00 Meeting with users: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Nature Protection, mass media representatives and scientific community representatives

Users: Ms. Mari Shishmanyan, independent journalist, Member of Journalists Union, Member of International Federation of Journalists; Mr. Vahan Ishkhanyan, independent journalist; Mr. Samvel Sargsyan, journalist "Noyan Tapan" Agency; Mr. Robert Stepanyan, Ministry of Education and Science; Mr. Genadi Kojoyan, Ministry of Nature Protection; Ms. Elya Matevosyan, Ministry of Health;

Assessors: Heinrich Bruengger, Tiina Luige, Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Arvydas Andreikenas

11:00 – 13:00 Side meeting with World Bank Country Office on office evaluation of quality of Armenian statistics and World Bank projects in the country

World Bank: Mr. Aristomene Varoudakis, Country Manager; Mr. Karen Grigorian Senior Economist

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Anton Steurer, Alina Milasiute

14:00 – 17:00 Review of balance of payments, trade, foreign direct investment statistics

*NSS participants***:** Mr. A. Shaboyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Mr. A. Petrosyan, Head of Balance of Payments and Foreign Trade Division

Assessors: Heinrich Bruengger, Tiina Luige, Anton Steurer, Alina Milasiute

14:00 – 15:00 Review of statistics on agriculture and forestry

*NSS Participant*s: Mr. G. Ananyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Mr. A. Avagyan, Head of Agriculture Statistics Division

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Arvydas Andreikenas

15:00 – 16.00 Meeting the representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Agriculture: Mr. Gagik Manucharyan, Head of Crop Production, Forestry and Crop Protection Department; Mr. Hrachya Tspnetsyan, Head of Agriculture and Rural Social Development Programming Department

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Arvydas Andreikenas

16:00 – 17:00 Further review of statistics on agriculture and forestry

*NSS Participant*s: Mr. G. Ananyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Mr. A. Avagyan, Head of Agriculture Statistics Division

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Arvydas Andreikenas

17:00-18:00 Joint side meeting with UNICEF and EC Delegation to discuss quality of social and demographic statistics, as well as their upcoming projects with the NSS

UNICEF: Ms. Laylee Moshiri-Gilani, Representative

EC Delegation: Mr. Uffe Holst Jensen, First Secretary

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Anton Steurer, Alina Milasiute

Monday, 26 January

09:00 – 11:30 Review of methodologies and classifications

NSS participants: Ms. L. Petrosyan, Head of Statistical Work Methodology and Classifications Division; Ms. G. Sargsyan, Main specialist, Statistical Work Methodology and Classifications Division; Mr. A. Shaboyan, Member of State Council on Statistics

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Anton Steurer, Arvydas, Andreikenas, Alina Milasiute

11:30 – 13:00 Review of dissemination

NSS participants: Ms. N. Mushegyan, Head of Statistical Information Dissemination and Marketing Division

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Anton Steurer, Arvydas Andreikenas, Alina Milasiute

14:00 – 16:00 Review of business statistics

NSS participants: Mr. G. Ananyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Mr. A. Ananyan, Head of Industry Statistics Division; Mr. G. Torosyan, Transport and Communication Statistics Division; Mrs. L. Petrosyan, Head of Construction Statistics Division; Ms. A. Harutyunyan, Head of Trade and other Services Statistics Division

Assessors: Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Anton Steurer, Alina Milasiute

16:00 – 17.00 Meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Finance: Mr. Sargis Israyelyan, Head of Cash Flow Management Division, Public Debt Management Department; Ms. Greta Adamyan, Macroeconomic Department

Assessors: Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Anton Steurer, Alina Milasiute

14:00 – 17:00 Visit to the Ararat regional office

NSS participants: Mr. L. Davtyan, Head of Ararat regional office

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Arvydas, Andreikenas

Tuesday, 27 January

09:00 – 10:30 Review of international cooperation

NSS participants: Ms. A. Safyan, Head of International Statistical Co-operation Division

Assessors: Anton Steurer, Alina Milasiute

10:30 – 12:30 Review of information technology resources

NSS participants: Mr. V. Davtyan, Member of State Council on Statistics, (Responsible for Information Technologies); Ms. N. Poghosyan, Head of Information Resources Management and Technologies Department

Assessors: Anton Steurer, Alina Milasiute

09:00 – 11:30 Review of labour market and social statistics

NSS participants: Mr. G. Gevorgyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Ms. L. Kalantaryan, Head of Labour Statistics Division; Ms. N. Baghdasaryan, Head of Social Sphere and Nature Protection statistics Division

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Arvydas Andreikenas

11:30 – 12.30 Meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Transport and Communication, as well as Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Ministry of Transport and Communication: Mr. Arsen Manoukyan, Deputy Chief of Staff; Mr. Alexandr Bakhtamyam, Director of Project Implementation Unit

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs: Mr. Hayk Chobanyan, Director, "NORK" Information and Analytical Center

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Arvydas Andreikenas

14:00 – 15:30 Review of household surveys

NSS participants: Mr. G. Gevorgyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Ms. D. Martirosova, Head of Households Surveys Division

Assessors: Anton Steurer, Alina Milasiute

14:00 – 15.30 Review of environment statistics, transport and energy statistics

NSS participants: Mr. Y. Poghosyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Mr. G. Ananyan, Member of State Council on Statistics; Mr. G. Torosyan, Transport and Communication Statistics Division

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Arvydas Andreikenas

16:00-18:00 Final debriefing with the President of the NSS, Members of State Council on Statistics, and EC delegation

NSS participants: Mr. S. Mnatsakanyan, President; Mr. L. Mirzoyan, Vice President; Mr. G. Gevorgyan, Member of State Council on Statistics (Responsible for Demography, Sociology and Public Activity); Mr. G. Ananyan, Member of State Council on Statistics (Responsible for Entrepreneurial Activity Management); Mr. A. Shaboyan, Member of State Council on Statistics (Responsible for Finance, Credit and Banking); Mr. V. Davtyan, Member of State Council on Statistics (Responsible for Information Technologies); Mr. Y. Poghosyan, Member of State Council on Statistics (Responsible for Nature Protection); Mr. A. Aghazaryan, Member of State Council on Statistics (Responsible for Regional Statistics); Mr. A. Hayrapetyan, Chief of Staff; Ms. A. Safyan, Head of International Statistical Co-operation Division

EC Delegation: Mr. Uffe Holst Jensen, First Secretary; Jean-Francois Moret, Project Manager

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Anton Steurer, Arvydas Andreikenas, Alina Milasiute

Second Assessment Mission

Tuesday, 31 March

Afternoon

Draft report discussion, appraisal, and revision meeting with the NSS president and top NSS management

NSS participants: Mr. S. Mnatsakanyan, President; Mr. G. Ananyan, Member of State Council on Statistics for Entrepreneurial Activity Management; Mr. A. Shaboyan, Member of State Council on Statistics for Finance, Credit and Banking) Ms. A. Safyan, Head of International Statistical Co-operation Division

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Tiina Luige, Arvydas Andreikenas, Alina Milasiute

Wednesday, 1 April

Morning

Group A meeting on remaining legal and institutional issues

NSS participants: Mr. S. Mnatsakanyan, President; Mr. A. Shaboyan, Member of State Council on Statistics for Finance, Credit and Banking; Ms. A. Safyan, Head of International Statistical Co-operation Division

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Tiina Luige

Group B meeting on remaining statistical domains

NSS participants: Mr. A. Aghazaryan, Member of State Council on Statistics for Regional Statistics; Mr. G. Ananyan, Member of State Council on Statistics for Entrepreneurial Activity Management; Mr. A. Petrosyan, Head of Balance of Payments and Foreign Trade Division

Assessors: Arvydas Andreikenas, Alina Milasiute

Afternoon

Meeting with Mr. Vartan Khachatrian, Advisor to the President of Republic of Armenia on issues of finances and economics

NSS participants: Mr. S. Mnatsakanyan, President

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Tiina Luige, Arvydas Andreikenas, Alina Milasiute

Visit to the Yerevan City Regional Office

NSS participant: Vrezh Avertysyan, Head of the Yerevan Office

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Tiina Luige,

Thursday, 2 April

Morning

Final meeting with the NSS top management to go over revised assessment report draft

NSS participants: Mr. S. Mnatsakanyan, President; Mr. G. Ananyan, Member of State Council on Statistics for Entrepreneurial Activity Management; Mr. A. Shaboyan, Member of State Council on Statistics for Finance, Credit and Banking) Ms. A. Safyan, Head of International Statistical Co-operation Division

Assessors: Petteri Baer, Jan Magnar Byfuglien, Tiina Luige, Arvydas Andreikenas, Alina Milasiute

ANNEX 2: LAW ON STATE STATISTICS OF REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. The State Statistics Legislation

The state statistics legislation is composed of this Law and other relevant legislative acts.

Article 2. The Sphere of Law Activity

This Law is mandatory to all the legal persons, isolated units of foreign legal persons acting in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, individual entrepreneurs, state bodies and local self-government bodies, state establishments not being the state bodies (hereinafter referred to as the state establishments), as well as to the citizens (providing with statistical information).

Article 3. State Statistics

State Statistics is an activity to be implemented by the state statistics body and its units according to the three-year and annual programs of state statistical work.

Article 4. Principal Tasks of the State Statistics

Principal tasks of the state statistics are as follows:

organisation of the statistical informational system on economic and public processes and their results,

provision with information to the state bodies and local self-government bodies, legal persons, state establishments and international organizations, as well as the society according to the established order;

provision with unique methodology on statistics appropriate to the standards established by international organizations;

maintenance of the state statistical register;

maintenance of classificators of required technical, economic and social information for organization of statistical work;

systematisation of development of document forms being the source of statistical information;

support to state bodies and local government bodies, as well as the organizations mentioned in Program of State Statistical Work in creation of own bases of statistical information with the purpose of comparability of interdepartmental information resources.

Article 5. Requirements to the State Statistics

Requirements to the state statistics are as follows:

objectivity, validity, neutrality of statistics;

reliability, accuracy, comparability in time and space, anonymity of the statistical data;

actuality, stability, integrity of statistical information;

comparability with the international norms and standards;

accordance of the statistical indicators with the international requirements to the national accounts;

periodic publication of summarized statistical data;

accessibility and publicity of the statistical information.

CHAPTER 2. ORGANISATION OF THE STATE STATISTICS

Article 6. Body Implementing the State Statistics

The state statistics shall be implemented by the body implementing state statistics – National Statistical Service and its territorial and functional units. The body implementing the state statistics is a body implementing functions aimed at the public interest, that is independent from state and local self-government bodies of the Republic of Armenia in its activities. Competence of the body implementing state statistics is established by the law.

Article 7. National Statistical Service

The National Statistical Service (hereinafter referred to as Service) implements the state statistical work and co-ordinates its on the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 8. Territorial and Functional Units of the Service

The territorial units of the Service are created in accordance with the regional division of the Republic of Armenia. To implement the separate functions according to the decision of the State Council on Statistics the functional units can be structured, separate functional authorities submitted to the territorial units of the Service. The heads of territorial and functional units are nominated and relieved by the President of Service, but staff – by the heads of units.

Article 9. President of Service

The Service is headed by the President, who is appointed for a term of 6 years and relieved by the President of the Republic. The President of the Service can be appointed the citizen of the Republic of Armenia having high economic education and work experience in the domain of statistics. The President of the Service can't hold another state post or implement the other paid work besides scientific, pedagogical and creative.

The President of the Service participates at the meetings of the Government with the right of consultative vote and can express its opinion concerning the issues being under discussion. The President of the Service: organizes the implementation of the state statistical work program, represents the Service in internal and external relations, implements another authorities established by the law.

The powers of President of the Service can be ahead of time stopped, in case of: his (her) resignation, stopped his (her) citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, recognition his (her) incapable or limited capable by the court decision or conviction on sentence entered into validity, his (her) death.

The deputies of the President are appointed by the State Council on Statistics on proposal of the President of the Service.

Article 10. State Council on Statistics

The supreme body of governance of the Service and its units is State Council on Statistics (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"). The President of the Service holds at the same time the post of the Chairman of the Council.

Council implements the working out of the policy in the domain of state statistics, designing, regulation, organization of the long-term activities, monitor on the implementation of the Program of State Statistical Work, as well as coordination of the administrative statistics in the Republic of Armenia stipulated by the Program of State Statistical Work.

Council:

confirms the draft of tree-year program of state statistical work,

confirms the annual program of state statistical work in a month after the adoption of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia,

confirms the regulations and structure of the Service, its territorial and functional units,

monitors the implementation of the program of state statistical work and confirms the report on implementation of annual program,

adopts the legal acts in the domain of statistics in cases stipulated by the Law,

confirms its internal rules of procedure,

implements other powers stipulated by the Law.

The Council shall be composed of 7 members, which are appointed for a term of 6 years and relieved by the President of the Republic.

The members of the Council can be appointed the citizens of the Republic of Armenia having high education, for reasons of practical and scientific and educational experience in the following domains:

demography, sociology and public activity,

territorial management and local self-government,

financial and banking,

nature protection,

management of entrepreneurial activity,

information technologies.

In case of opening of the vacant place of the Council member the new appointment is given for the inpassed term of the period of office of the relieved member.

The powers of the Council member can be ahead of time stopped, in case of: his (her) resignation, stopped his (her) citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, recognition his (her) incapable or limited capable by the Court decision or conviction on sentence entered into validity, his (her) inadequate absence during the year on more than half meetings of the Council, his (her) death.

The meetings of the Council are called by the Chairman of the Council non-rarely than once a month. Special meeting of the Council may be called on demand of no less than four of its members. The meetings of the Council are recorded.

Council has the right to decide, if at the meeting no less than 5 of its members are present. The decision of the Council is considered as adopted, if more than half of Council members have voted for it.

Article 11. State Statistical Work Program

The State Statistical Work Program (hereinafter referred to as Program) is the basis for implementation state statistics on the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Program includes statistical information necessary for the observation of the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation in country, taking into account the availability of resources, the burdens on respondents and the cost-effectiveness.

The directions of activity and actions envisaged by the Program should take into account the comparability of country indicators with the international statistical standards, provide with possible stable periodicity of trends from the viewpoint of their revealing during the long term and provide with the proportion of resources foreseen for state statistics on annual basis.

The program is developed based on the study of the demand of statistical information users.

For the determination of directions of the state statistical activity the three-year program is developed, while for the definition of actions providing with realization of these directions – annual program.

The three-year program is adopted by the national Assembly on presentation of the Government.

The three-year program includes the main directions of the state statistical activity in economic, demographic, social and environmental fields of the country. Report on implementation of the three-year program is submitted to the National Assembly before the 1 May of the next year. The annual program is adopted by the Council on presentation of the President of the Service and published.

The annual program includes:

list of statistical work, terms of their implementation, the coverage, as well as types of observation;

periodicity of the presentation of statistical indicators;

list of surveys that should be implemented by the Service, published statistical handbooks, bulletins and other publications and their periodicity;

list of organizations, state bodies and local self-government and other administrative registers and list of summary statistical information (data), presented by them;

list of statistical information users, composition of information, provided free of charge and order of its presentation.

Article 12. State Statistical Observations

State statistical observations (hereinafter referred to as observations) imply collection of information (data) on phenomenon and processes, taking place in the economy and society, on the basis of primary reporting documentation derived from the statistical information providers or direct inquiry based on the before designed program, methods and forms.

The methods (including the methodology of calculation of indicators), sampling and order of execution of observations (including the order of collection-presentation of information) implemented on the basis of the program are established by the Council.

The observations by forms are implemented through entire, sample surveys, as well as use of collected data (including received from administrative registers).

The observations according to the coverage can be state, branchial, (departmental) and territorial, as well as by separate sectors of the coverage.

Body implementing the state statistics can involve other legal persons, state establishments, as well as citizens in their work while conducting observations on the contract basis.

The provider of statistical information for the conduction of observations foreseen by the Program are obliged to provide necessary data free of charge according to the order established by the Council.

Article 13. Statistical and Information (Administrative) Register

Body implementing the state statistics carries out the statistical internal registers of statistical information providers, which will ensure the accounting of accumulated on it information and unique identification of indicators. The system of accounting and unique identification operates for the whole period of operation of the given register. Service creates and maintains business (entrepreneurial) register.

The creation and maintenance of the business-register are implemented on the basis of the state register of legal units. The Business-register is liable to regular update data base of registered in the Republic of Armenia legal units on their real place of location, main and not main types of activity, number of employees and additional other indicators established by the Council.

State bodies and local self-government, including the Central Bank (hereinafter referred to as bodies implementing administrative statistics), implements branchial (departmental) and local (municipal) accounting (statistics) through the maintenance of administrative registers.

Administrative registers shall include at least the following components:

the necessary indicators included into Program and presented to the Service by the statistical information providers,

the maintenance of the passports of communities, that includes the system of accumulated on a regular basis and kept indicators on population number, sex-age and social composition, cultural, educational and sport complexes (constructions) situated in the community, health, housing communal economy, production infrastructure, budget of the community and other necessary information.

The completeness of the information (data) collected through state statistical and administrative observations composes the unique system of the state statistical information of the Republic of Armenia.

The methodology and forms of documentation of the administrative information collection foreseen by the Program are established by the Council.

Article 14. Presentation, Use, Publication and Keeping of the State Statistical Information

For the implementation of work foreseen by the Program the state statistical information (data) is collected (presented) through the form of the statistical documents established by the Council.

The statistical information is collected through the following type of statistical documents:

state statistical reports,

survey questionnaire,

other type of documents and information concerning the observations adopted by the Council.

Population Censuses are carried out according to the order established by the Law and other legislative acts.

Forms of documents include the volume of statistical data, addresses and terms of presentation, frame of statistical information providers and other data.

In cases foreseen by the Program the information is presented to the Service in summarized form.

The statistical information (data) should be reliable. The accounting and norms established by laws regulating financial reports and other legislative acts serve the basis for filling in the statistical documents (calculation statistical indicators). In cases foreseen by the laws and other legislative acts the providers of statistical information implement special calculations and corrections, present statistical data (information) according to the established requirements.

Statistical data are considered confidential (hereinafter referred to as statistical confidentiality) if through them it is possible by direct or indirect form to reveal (unify, identify) the provider of statistical information, to obtain individual (personal) information. The data taken from publicly available sources shall not be considered confidential.

The data considered confidential without the agreement of their provider should not be published or by other form disseminated. The agreement should be expressed in written form. In case of legal units the agreement should be done by their executive body or other body having appropriate authorization according to the regulations. Agreement can contain the restrictions concerning the use of data. The provision on non-publication or non-dissemination by other form of the information doesn't operate in case, when it is the information reflecting natural or other monopoly activity. Non-publication (non-dissemination) of this information will essentially influence on keeping of principles of the statistical information completeness. In such cases the decision on publication (dissemination) is adopted by the Council.

The direct identification of the provider of statistical information is by means of name, address, identification code of classification. Indirect identification is by means than above-mentioned data.

For scientific research work the data consist of statistical confidentiality in exceptional cases may be used or published by the form and part, that don't allow the direct identification of individual (personal) data, according to the Council decision.

The reporting or providing of collected information to staff-member of the body, implementing statistics, and to persons, rendering to this body services, is not considered as publication or data distribution, if:

they are necessary for statistical purposes;

these persons abstain from publication of information, containing the statistical confidentiality, trusted them or known related to the work, as well as from their use or publication in own interests or in third persons interests.

The body implementing statistics according to the order established by the Council takes measures for the appropriate protection of information consisting of statistical confidentiality.

The Council determines the forms of publication of the statistical information according to the order established by the Law and other legal acts. The publications foreseen by the Program are placed in Internet network and open library of the Service.

For the information presented to the users, not included in the list of free users of the statistical information, foreseen by the Program, and information presented to other users out of the information volume presented free of charge by the Program, Service levies the payment, the order of which calculation, pay and use is established by the Government.

Statistical information is considered official if it is published by:

Service or its territorial and functional unit,

other state bodies on the basis of information presented by the body implementing the state statistics.

Besides the body implementing state statistics the bodies implementing administrative statistics can publish departmental and community information mentioned its source.

Order and terms of keeping the state statistical information are determined by the laws.

CHAPTER 3. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE BODY IMPLEMENTING THE STATE STATISTICS AND BODIES IMPLEMENTING THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATISTICS

Article 15. Rights of the Body Implementing the State Statistics

Body implementing the state statistics in the framework of its competence has the right:

to receive reliable statistical data from the providers of statistical information according to the order established by the Law and other legal acts;

to receive the required statistical data from the providers of statistical information on a contract basis, including citizens on their social and demographic situation, as well as households;

to prepare and present appropriate conclusions and recommendations based on the analysis of the social, economic and demographic processes;

to explain issues related to use and comments on the statistical information and data;

in order to provide the reliability, completeness of data, information (initial or summarized form) and maintenance of the order of data calculation, to implement the checking by the established order. In case of misrepresentations, it is necessary to instruct to liquidate them and to introduce relevant corrections in the initial and summarized statistical data;

to examine the issues related to the statistics and accounting ;

to present statistical, analytical, informational, publishing and other services foreseen by the regulation on a contract basis outside the program, according to the order determined by law and other legal acts;

to adopt the departmental normative legal acts foreseen by given Law and other legal acts regarding the implementation of statistical work and completion of forms of the documents mentioned in the second part of the 14 Article of given Law;

to conclude the treaties on co-operation with bodies of the other countries implementing statistics and international statistical organizations according to the order determined by Law and other legal acts.

Article 16. Obligations of the Body Implementing the State Statistics

Body implementing the state statistics is obliged:

to organize execution of work foreseen by the Program;

to provide the information related to the economic, social, demographic and environmental situation to the President of the Republic, Government, National Assembly, as well as other state bodies determined by the Program, according to the order foreseen by the Program;

to ensure the accessibility to the summarized state statistical information;

to preserve the principles of anonymity of the collected statistical data;

not to publish and disseminate the initial statistical information;

to present the information available at the databank to the legal person, state establishment or citizen on their apply;

to provide the units presenting the state statistical information with the statistical reporting forms and instructions free of charge, and to inform them on terms, periodicity of submission of the statistical reports as required.

Article 17. Rights of the Bodies Implementing the Administrative Statistics

Bodies implementing the administrative statistics according to the order determined by the laws and other legal acts have the right:

to receive necessary data and information for the maintenance of administrative registers from legal persons, state establishments and individual entrepreneurs;

to publish the results of implemented by them information functions (observation of the administrative character) mentioned the source.

Article 18. Obligations of the Bodies Implementing the Administrative Statistics

Bodies implementing the administrative statistics are obliged to preserve the requirements of the legislation during the implementation of observations and other work.

CHAPTER 4. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNITS PRESENTING THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Article 19. Rights of Units Presenting the Statistical Information

The units presenting the state statistical information have the right: to receive the forms of statistical reports and instructions from the body implementing the state statistics free of charge; to receive the initial self-related data from the databank of the body implementing the state statistics.

Article 20. Obligations of the Units Presenting the Statistical Information

The units presenting the state statistical information are obliged: to present the necessary statistical data and information for the implementation of Program according to the established order and terms by the Program; to execute the instructions related to the state statistics and accounting given by the body implementing statistics.

The units presenting the statistical information complete and present the statistical reports (questionnaire and other) independently, if there is no another order established by the Council.

CHAPTER 5. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR VIOLATION OF THE LAW ON STATE STATISTICS

Article 21. Responsibilities of the Units Presenting the Statistical Information and Officials of the Body Implementing the State Statistics

The violation of the Law on State Statistics by the units presenting the statistical information, as well as by the officials of the body implementing the state statistics are called to administrative or criminal responsibility according to the order determined by the Law.

In case of non-presentation of the necessary statistical reports for the observations within the determined terms the written notice is given during the 15 days. For delay of presentation of the reports on more than one month from the determined term and non-presentation of the report within the 15 days after the presentation of the written notice or presentation (despite the term) with violation of the determined order (not reliable data, their reflection not in full volume and other misrepresentation) the units presenting the statistical reports are called to responsibility according to the order determined by the Law.

Activities of the officials of the body implementing the State Statistics shall be appealed by order determined by the Law.

The appellation of the activities of the officials of the body implementing the state statistics related to the imposing of administrative penalty is implemented according to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia on administrative offences.

CHAPTER 6. INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

Article 22. International Treaties

In case the rules determined for the international treaties in the Republic of Armenia are different from the rules determined by this Law, the rules of international laws are applied.

CHAPTER 7. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 23. The Entry into Force of the Law

This law comes into force as soon as it is published. From the moment of the entry into force of the given Law to recognize as loosed the force the Law "On State Statistics" of the Republic of Armenia, adopted on 29 May 1996.

From the moment of the entry into force of the given Law the Ministry of Statistics, State Register and Analysis is recognized into National Statistical Service, which is becoming of its successor.

The legal acts, regulating the domain of the State Statistics, operate before the adoption by the State Council on Statistics of the appropriate legal acts, determined by the given Law.

ANNEX 3.1: SCIENTIFIC AND METHODOLOGICAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA – CHARTER

29 May 2001
State Council on Statistics Resolution No 26

Scientific and Methodological Council of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Scientific and Methodological Council (hereinafter: the Council) of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter: the NSS RA) is an advisory body that has been established according to the item 6.1.4 of the Resolution No 9 dated 15 August 2000 of the State Council on Statistics "On Approving the Charter of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia and Structure of the Central Office".

2. The Council by its activity promotes the implementation of work on ensuring of the development of the system of statistical indicators, observations (censuses, surveys, etc.) and statistical other work programs, and improving the methodology.

3. The Council in its activity is guided by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and given Charter.

4. The Council functions on a voluntary basis.

TASKS AND FUNCIONS OF THE COUNCIL

5. Main tasks of the Council:

5.1. Introduction and application of reliable and comparable statistical information system, based on the common scientific methodology that includes:

a) developing of the three year and annual state statistical work programs, taking into account the factors of statistical information users needs, resources allocated to statistics and burden of statistical information providers,

b) developing of economic and mathematic methods in state statistics,

c) improving of the statistical information system on economic, social, demographic and environmental processes and their results,

d) increasing of the theoretical level, complexity and importance of statistical observations (surveys) application,

e) improving of the theory and practice of international statistical comparisons, ensuring of the common methodology in accordance with criteria defined by international financial, economic and other organizations,

f) improving of the field of statistical indicators and observations, based on the modern scientific methodology, information technologies and computer equipment, increasing of the statistical information efficiency and quality,

g) promoting the creation of the sustainable and developing management system, including regional (marz) and other territorial levels, as well as application of mechanisms of realization of statistical products against the payment defined by order,

5.2. Discussing of current and perspective methodological programs of the NSS RA` s units.

6. The Council:

a) implements the review, expertise of issues presented by the NSS RA` s units for the Council's discussions, and makes conclusions and recommendations,

b) exams the issues of development of statistical work programs, implementation of Council's resolutions and recommendations,

c) implements the joint work with other bodies towards the development and introduction of national accounts in the country in accordance with international standards with a purpose to ensure the compliance and comparability of statistical values,

d) cooperates with the relevant councils of other countries and international organizations to use their advanced experience in its activity,

e) prepares and presents conclusions and recommendations by the defined order, based on the analysis of work implemented towards the improvement of social, economic, demographic and environmental statistics.

7. The Council by the order defined by the RA legislation is authorized:

a) to make methodological recommendations,

b) to be acquainted with the materials necessary for the Council's activity,

c) to discuss regularly on its meetings the opinions of the NSS RA`s units on methodological issues.

III. COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

8. The Council is composed of 11 members: President of the NSS RA (Chairman), Member of the State Council on Statistics of RA, responsible for financial and banking fields, Head of the Statistical Work Methodology and Classifications Division (Secretary), as well as representatives from other interested state bodies, scientific and educational institutions, and other spheres. The State Council on Statistics of RA approves the composition of the Council.

IV. ORDER TO CONDUCT CONCIL`S MEETINGS AND MAKE DECISIONS

9. Regular Council's meetings are convened if necessary, but not less, than once in three months.

10. Extraordinary meetings of the Council could be convened:

a) by the initiative of the Council's Chairman

b) by the request of at least one third of members of the Council.

ANNEX 3.2: SCIENTIFIC AND METHODOLOGICAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA – MEMBER LIST

Members of the Scientific and Methodological Council

National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia

Mnatsakanyan Stepan	President, National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia and Chairman, State Council on Statistics (Chairman)
Shaboyan Artashes	Member, State Council on Statistics
Adibekyan Aharon	Director, "Sociometr" Independent Sociological Center, sociologist
Gabrielyan Vache	Deputy Chairman, Central Bank
Chilingaryan Aharon	First Deputy Chairman, State Revenue Committee of RA
Petrosyan Martiros	Vice-chancellor, State Economic University of Armenia, Head, Labour Economy department
Harutyunyan Artur	Director, "AN" Consult CGSC
Sargsyan Hayk	Dean, Economy faculty, Yerevan State University
Fagradyan Martin	Docent, Statistics Department, State Economic University of Armenia
Hergnyan Manuk	Chairman, "Economy and Values", Research Center
Petrosyan Lilit	Head, Statistical Work Methodology and Classifications Division, National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia (secretary)

ANNEX 4: PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION IN FUTURE REVISION OF THE LAW

1. Concerning the explicit introduction of other bodies than the NSS being able to be recognised as producers of official statistics, the following changes are recommended:

    a. In Article 3, the unique State Statistical Body (NSS) would have to be replaced by a list of the components of the NSOS: the NSS, the Central Bank (by not being part of the Government, it has to be mentioned explicitly), other producers not to be enumerated in the law itself but (if they qualify) in the Statistical Programmes, the State Council on Statistics, and possibly a new advisory body composed of user representatives.

    b. An additional article should state the conditions for ministries to qualify as producers of official statistics in the Three-Year and Annual State Statistical Work Programmes. One of the conditions (which is also applicable to the Central Bank) has to be the creation of a separate organisational unit for statistics, with no other tasks that may negatively impinge on professional independence, impartiality or confidentiality. Only this organisational unit would become part of the system of official statistics, not the whole ministry/Central Bank.

    c. In Article 4, the reference to "support their own bases of information" (administrative information)" should be reformulated and be transferred to the article proposed under letter h concerning administrative registers and sources.

    d. Chapters 2 and 3 would have to be substantially restructured and partially rewritten, distinguishing between the responsibilities and functions that can only be carried out by the NSS and those than be assigned through the Statistical Programmes to the other producers.

    e. In Article 10, the heads of statistical departments in the Central Bank and in the ministries recognised as producers should have the status of regular observers in the State Council on Statistics (however, they will not be appointed by the President of the Republic like the regular members of the Council, and would therefore not have the right of vote). The second bullet of this Article should not use the term "administrative statistics"; it should rather be explicit on the fact that the scope of activities of the Council includes also the official statistics activities of other producers.

    f. Article 11 could remain as is if it is understood that the official statistics activities of the Central Bank and the other producers are included, after being checked by the NSS in various respects (not just by carrying over any request from other producers without change).

    g. In Article 13, the paragraphs that deal with statistical registers can remain unchanged with the additional specification that the "service creates and maintains the statistical business (entrepreneurial) register." Depending on the plans after the next agricultural census, the introduction of a new paragraph on the future statistical farm register should be considered.

        i. The paragraphs on administrative data/registers and their custodian agencies should be rewritten and grouped together in a separate article.

Since the Law on State Statistics cannot be the legal basis for the primary data collection for administrative purposes, it should rather enable the NSS to be consulted early enough when other agencies have plans to modify, abolish, or create data collections or registers for administrative purposes that are used (or have a potential to be used) as inputs for official statistics.

ii. The rest of the new article on administrative data sources should state very clearly that the NSS has the right of access to receive the unit-level records form all administrative data collections and registers that are planned for being used in the Statistical Programme, and that this may include direct identifiers of units if this is explicitly provided in the Statistical Programme. In order to make this provision withstand possible contradicting provisions in other laws, it should be reinforced by a clause that stipulates that this access right in the Law on State Statistics overrides barriers to access that may exist in other laws, except if they explicitly ban using this information for official statistics (which is very rarely the case, normally there is only a general clause that prohibits all forwarding of confidential data. In addition to the detailed list of administrative sources used for official in the annual Statistical Programme, it is advisable to have a protocol between the NSS and each provider of such data to regulate the terms of data transmission more precisely. However, there is no need to mention specific administrative sources in the Law on State Statistics itself (as is the case in some provisions of this article).

h. The last part of Article 14 ("Statistical information is considered official if it published by…") should be revised in the following way: "Statistical information is considered official if it is characterised as such and published by:

i. The NSS (drop "its territorial or functional units");

ii. The statistical department of another producer of official statistics in the areas of competence mentioned in the Statistical Programmes."

The subsequent sentence about the bodies implementing administrative statistics should be dropped.

i. In Article 15, the president of the NSS will have the additional task to represent the whole national statistical system.

j. In Article 17, the three provision contained in this article refer to the tasks of administrative agencies with respect to their data collection for administrative purposes; for this reason, they should not be in a Law on State Statistics. This article can be dropped if the access for the NSS to administrative data sources is clearly stated in another article.

k. Article 18 should focus on the obligations of other producers, in addition to what is proposed under letter b concerning the creation of separate organizational units. The revised Article 18 should mention that these units are professionally independent concerning official statistics from the

agency/ministry to which they belong, but that as part of the national statistical system, they have to follow the secondary legislation as enacted by the State Council on Statistics for the whole statistical system and for the statistics in their own responsibility, and respect the ultimate authority of the chief statistician within the limits of the primary and secondary statistical legislation.

2. Other provisions in the present law that should be considered for modification in a future revision process are:

    a. According to a provision in Article 10, Council members that resign before their six-year term is finished will be replaced by a new member only for the residual period of these six years. It means that the statutory terms of all members (including that of the chairman/NSS president) start and end simultaneously. This might lead to the need for replacing many Council members at the end of one six-year period, whereas distributing replacements one by one over time would ensure a better balance between continuity and change. The simultaneity of terms is also a potential risk for independence: legally speaking, by replacing the majority of or even all members of the State Council on Statistics once their terms have come to the end, the President of the Republic could completely change the policy of the NSS. It is therefore proposed to either drop or replace this provision, and to start a new 6 year term for an individual Council member whenever he/she is appointed for the first time.

    b. Article 14 introduces two terms in the context of statistical surveys: state statistical report (for periodical surveys) and survey questionnaires (for unique surveys). It is not clear why these two types of surveys should be distinguished in legal terms; it should be sufficient to introduce this distinction at the level of the Statistical Programmes.

    c. Article 16 provision on the obligation to provide insight to persons and economic units on information kept by the NSS about them should be moved to the article on statistical registers. Its scope should be limited to statistical registers.

    d. The last provision in Article 19 should not be formulated as a right, since it would force the NSS to keep the identifiers associated with the content variable much longer than is required for statistical purposes. The NSS should have the option to pre-fill some parts of the questionnaire with the information collected from the same respondents in previous surveys, but this has to be decided on a case-by-case basis.

ANNEX 5: 2007-2009 THREE–YEAR STATE STATISTICAL WORK PROGRAMME OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA (TRANSLATED EXCEPRTS)

INTRODUCTION

This program has been developed according to the requirement of part 5 of the Article 11 of the RA "Law on State Statistics" and defines the directions of state statistical activity for 2007-2009 by economic, demographic, social and environmental fields of statistics.

The three-year statistical work program of the Republic of Armenia for 2007-2009 (hereinafter three-year program) includes statistical information necessary for observation of the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation of the country, taking into account restrictions of the available resources, burden on statistical information providers and cost- effectiveness.

According to the RA "Law on State Statistics" directions and measures of activity foreseen by the three-year program take into consideration the comparability of country indicators with international statistical standards, ensure the possible stable periodicity to reveal long-term trends and proportion of resourses foreseen for state statistics on annual basis.

The implementation and financing of the three-year program is conditioned and depended upon the RA annual state budget.

PART 1. GENERAL STRATEGY

The adopted strategy of state statistics is guided by the implementation of main tasks defined by the Article 4 of the RA "Law on State Statistics" and based on 10 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the 47 session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (15 April 1992) and by the United Nation Statistical Commission (14 April 1994), as well as in addition to those principles on 15 principles defined by the European Statistics Code of Practice adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005 and on statistics international criteria and standards developed based on them.

According to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, statistics should ensure impartiality (independence), equal access to use information, professional standards, efficiency, accountability and transparency, confidentiality of primary (private) data, etc. to meet requirements of state institutions, international organizations, public, and business during the program work.

To ensure the main tasks and fundamental principles of state statistics, it is foreseen, in particular:

a) to continue the processes of institutional reforms of statistics, pursuing the implementation of relevant legislative changes regulating statistical relations in the context of keeping of internationally adopted principles,
b) to continue and enlarge the international cooperation of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia with a purpose to ensure a continuous improvement of statistical methodology, its harmonization and unification with international standards, as well as the international comparability of statistical indicators,
c) to continue the work of introduction and application of internationally adopted standards on data dissemination (in particular Special Data Dissemination Standard developed by the International Monetary Fund) with a purpose to ensure statistical

data quality and transparency that supposes uninterrupted operation of the Website of the National Statistical Service of RA and regular updating of information contents and quality, as well as methodological data,

d) in parallel with the development of statistical methodology to continue the work of review of contents and composition of indicators reflected in the actually acting statistical observation documents and unification of statistical observation documents, at the same time aiming at minimizing of the possible negative impacts on information quality, completeness and reliability,
e) to complete and update (minimum annually) the business register database (on legal persons and individual entrepreneurs) and as a consequence to have a gradual transition to the introduction and use of sample methods of information collection,
f) to continue the work of development and introduction of national classifications related to the part of complete system of classification and coding of technical and economic, and social information (including common classification of territorial units for statistics, classification of individual consumption by purposes, classification of statistical units, etc.), as well as work of improvement of classifications already introduced and applied in the state statistics (taking into account the fact of nationalization of foreseen main changes on classification of economic activities and classification of products by activity),
g) to pass to the complete application of information collection mechanism through administrative registers, taking into account the implementation of relevant work defined by the annual statistical work program,
h) to improve and enlarge the composition and contents of indicators needed for the maintenance of territorial statistics in parallel with introduction and maintenance of local (community) administrative registers (including passports of communities),
i) to continue the work on completion of gender statistics,
j) to pass to the information electronic collection through the introduction and application of information technologies to ensure the timeliness of indicators preparation
k) to enlarge the composition, contents and thematic coverage of statistical publications (bulletins, handbooks, etc.), also to extend the dissemination possibilities by the application of information technologies to meet the needs of statistical information users more complete and efficient,
l) to improve the mechanism of summary information receiving through the official Website of the National Statistical Service of RA for the users of statistical information.

PART 2. PROGRAMS OF MEASURES GUARANTEENG THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONAL SPHERES

The sphere of statistics is characterized by the need of permanent improvement of the methodology that is conditioned on one hand by data reliability, timeliness, sound methodology of receiving of information and increasing demands on compliance with international criteria, and on the other hand by the non-dissemination of initial (private) data of all the types.

It is foreseen to implement the further development of statistics for 2007-2009 within the framework of the following main measure programs:

SECTION 2.1. REAL SECTOR

2.1.1. National Accounts

1) The maintenance and improvement of the system of national accounts of Armenia for the whole economy, as well as by structural sectors according to the international methodology of the "System of National Accounts -93" and "European System of Accounts - 95".

2) Improvement of the calculation methodology on gross domestic product and other macro-economic indicators, as well as on grouping format of activity types defined by the "European System of Accounts- 95".

3) Maintenance of statistics of value added (by production approach) of financial and non-financial organizations by sub-sectors.

4) Maintenance and improvement of statistics on national wealth components.

5) Complete introduction of Armenian classification of economic activities into national accounts.

6) Improvement of the estimation methodology of sizes and calculations of the "non-observed economy".

7) Introduction of the "input-output" principle into the system of national accounts.

2.1.2. Industry

1) Maintenance of industry statistics according to the Armenian classification of products by activity.

2) Continued improvement of data collection and processing methodology of industry statistics.

3) Improvement of methodology of estimation of non-observed (underreported) field by separate types of products.

4) Use of results of household surveys and other sample surveys to ensure the completeness of registration field.

2.1.3. Agriculture

1) Maintenance of agriculture statistics according to the Armenian classification of economic activities and classification of products by activity.

2) Regular updating of sample observation field of agriculture statistics to increase the representativeness of agriculture indicators.

3) Increasing the completeness and reliability of statistical data through the improvement of sample observation methods.

4) Regular improvement of methodology of agriculture statistics data collection and processing.

5) Improvement of adjustment tools of volumes crop and cattle products production, taking into account their peculiarities.

6) Conduction of agricultural census in the Republic of Armenia for 2007-2009 that will enable to update and enlarge the agriculture statistical database and create preconditions for formation, introduction and maintenance of the farm register.

2.1.4. Construction

1) Maintenance of construction statistics according to the Armenian classification of economic activities and classification of products by activity.

2) Continued improvement of calculation methodology of construction main indicators.

3) Continued improvement of statistical observations mechanisms to ensure the completeness and to increase the reliability of construction volumes.

4) Formation of the register and updating of registration network to ensure the completeness of construction statistics information bases.

2.1.5. Transport and Communications

1) Maintenance of transport and communications statistics according to the Armenian classification of economic activities and classification of products by activity.

2) Improvement of estimation methodology of non-observed (underreported) field on main indicators of road transport (passengers and goods transportation, passengers and goods turnover) according to criteria defined by international methodology.

3) Continued improvement of transport and communications statistics methodology and ensuring its comparability with existing international standards.

2.1.6. Trade and other services

1) Maintenance of trade and services statistics according to the Armenian classification of economic activities and classification of products by activity.

2) Regular conduction of statistical observations to ensure the completeness and to increase the reliability of retail trade turnover.

3) Improvement of estimation methodology of non-observed (underreported) field in trade and services.

2.1.7. Prices and price indexes

1) Further improvement of consumer price indexes calculation methodology, review and extension of the composition and structure of observed goods-services, in particular the inclusion of price indexes in Ararat marz into the summary index calculations of the Republic of Armenia.
2) Improvement of estimation methodology of industry, agriculture production, external trade prices, goods transportation tariffs and other services price indexes, enlargement of the observation field, samples review, continuation of the process of introduction of international criteria and classifications in price observations.
3) Continuation of participation in work of the new stage (by 2008-2009 basic data) of international comparisons program on calculation of GDP and PPP implemented

within the framework of CIS countries. The observation of about 1400 items of consumer goods (services), investment goods, construction components prices (jointly with the relevant authorized body implemented administrative statistics), as well as observation of prices of non-market services according to the international comparisons program.

2.1.8. Labor market

1) Improvement of information collection methods and tools on labor market.
2) Regular review and improvement of composition of indicators and contents characterizing labor market based on definitions, standards, principles and concepts defined by the international methodology.
3) Maintenance of labor market statistics according to the international standard classification of employment status, continued completion and updating of labor statistics information base, improvement of regional statistics on labor.

SECTION 2.2. TAX, BUDGETARY AND FINACIAL SECTORS

1) Maintenance and improvement of state finance statistics (consolidated, state, communities and obligatory social insurance budgets and their elements) according to the internationally adopted and applied methodologies (including financial results of organizations under state supervision into the RA consolidated budget jointly with relevant authorized body implementing administrative statistics),
2) Maintenance and improvement of state debt statistics of the Republic of Armenia.
3) Maintenance and improvement of statistics of financial intermediation sector (including also financial intermediation of non-banking sector jointly with the relevant authorized body implementing administrative statistics),
4) Introduction and Maintenance of the "Financial account" statistics according to the principles of the "European System of Accounts - 95" and in this context the review of the composition and contents of financial and economic indicators collected from non-financial organizations and their harmonization with the internationally adopted and applied methodologies.

SECTION 2.3. EXTERNAL SECTOR

1) Compilation of balance of payments and international investment position of the Republic of Armenia according to the methodology of International Monetary Fund.

2) Continued improvement of external debt statistics of the Republic of Armenia (by the republic, sectors of economy, period of repayment and separate tools) according to the internationally adopted and applied methodologies.

3) Improvement of the registration field of foreign (including foreign direct investments) investments and estimation methodology of indicators.

4) Maintenance and improvement of external trade statistics of goods and services.

5) Taking into account proposals of international organizations, implementation of work on compilation of tourism satellite account jointly with the relevant authorized

body implementing administrative statistics and in this context conduction of sample surveys to compile main tables of the satellite account.

SECTION 2.4. SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC SECTOR

2.4.1. Social sphere

1) Formation of administrative registers and improvement of administrative statistics to complete statistical registration of education, health, culture, sport and other social and demographic spheres (including statistics on secondary, higher and post-graduate education, training processes).

2) Improvement of housing and public utilities sphere statistics.

2.4.2. Nature protection

1) Taking into consideration social and economic, regional development and bioactivity peculiarities, maintenance of regional information bases, improvement of administrative registers related to the given sphere.

2) Improvement of the registration system of nature protection investments and expenditures.

3) Formation of estimation indicators on impact of environment factors on population health and information base.

4) Continuation of the work on introduction of environmental satellite accounts.

5) Introduction of geographical informational system in publications on the environment situation.

2.4.3. Households survey

1) Regular conduction of households sample surveys and improvement of methodology.

2) Provision of representative sampling of household surveys to complete and update main indicators characterizing poverty and living standards of population that will enable to calculate and publish these indicators by marz breakdown as well.

3) Provision of continuation of maintenance and improvement of poverty material and non-material indicators (education, health, access to drinking water and housing conditions) for monitoring of poverty reduction strategy program.

4) Poverty deep assessment through the special modules (module questionnaires) during the households sample surveys.

2.4.4. Food security

1) According to the methodology applied by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and European Commission the continued improvement of indicators system characterizing the food security situation (food availability, access and consummation) and based on them the regular compilation of national food balance.

2.4.5. Demography

1) Development of complex measures for the preparation of the next population census for 2011 to ensure the implementation of the part 1 of the Article 4 of the RA"Law on Population Census".

2) Compliance of demographic indicators informational system with the internationally adopted standards to present the demographic situation of the republic more comprehensive, in particular,

a) improvement of work on development of acts on population natural movement indicators (birth, death, marriage, divorce).
b) development of alternative modes for the registration (assessment) of population migration.

3) Provision of complete indicators on population sex and age composition by marzes of the Republic of Armenia.

PART 3. MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURSES AND INTRODUCTION OF TECHNOLOGIES

Development of information technologies within the System of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will be implemented within the framework of the concept of development of common statistical information system of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia.

1) Provision of continued work on updating of the local computer network of units of the National Statistical Service of RA, equipment of units with computers, software and modem connection, creation of the corporative network.
2) Continued work on updating of the NSS RA`s Web page http://docs.armstat.am/nsdp (http://docs.armstat.info/nsdp) of the official Website www.armstat.am , as well as intranet site for internal use, creating preconditions for the operation of electronic site (extranet) of transmission of information between the structural and separate units of the NSS RA.
3) Creation of corporative data and metadata warehouses that will include the whole list of published statistical indicators as permanent data.
4) Continued work to ensure the information security and uninterrupted activity of the common statistical information system of the National Statistical Service of RA, guaranteeing the statistical confidentiality and anonymity of data.
5) Formation of the system of receiving of statistical data through electronic documents from statistical information providers, bodies implementing administrative statistics and marz Agencies of the National Statistical Service of RA and interactive contact system with statistical information users.

PART 4. INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COOPERATION

1) In the field of statistics the cooperation will include the exchange information and experience exchange, as well as with a purpose to build capacities their dissemination for further use of statistical data. The scope of implementation of statistical cooperation is enough wide, ranging from informal contacts in international working groups and meetings to comprehensive programs to improve statistics. The main goals of corporation are:

a) Increased and better use of improved statistical data in key areas to provide the basis for policy, planning, decision – making and monitoring of economic, social, environmental and demographic development, as well as in the sphere of investments.

b) Increased statistical capacity and capabilities to produce statistical data in priority areas, as well as to publish them.

c) To ensure the ability to sustain and develop systems and capabilities in long term programs.

2. The main tasks of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia within the international cooperation are:

a) to increase the quality of statistical products according to the information modern requirements.

b) to increase the data relevance and reliability, taking into account the users needs and studying the methodology applied in the international practice.

c) to ensure the coherence of statistical standards and rules with international standards and rules.

d) to ensure international comparability of data.

e) to increase the confidence to statistical information by forming of relevant legal field of statistics, improving data dissemination, introducing to users the role of statistics in the liberal economic system and support to wide use of statistical information, when decision making, monitoring and evaluation implementing in any area.

f) to increase and ensure the image of official statistics in external world.

3. The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia foresees to continue the active participation in the work (measures) towards the improvement, unification and harmonization of statistical methodology and practice within international cooperation, and ensuring of comparability of indicators officially published by national statistical services of other countries on social and economic development, and population living standards of their countries. By contents and subject this most important and multilateral activity will be implemented in the following main directions:

1) Participation in the activity of international organizations:

a) United Nations: UNSD, UNECE and UNECE CES, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNESCAP, UNFAO, other specialized bodies;

b) IMF;

c) WB;

d) Eurostat;

e) OECD;

f) ILO;

g) ISI and others.

2) Development and implementation of cooperation projects with foreign experts' participation with a purpose to solve important problems towards the reforms of state statistics system at the funds of national and regional technical assistance programs of international organizations.

3) Bilateral and multilateral cooperation with national statistical services of foreign countries within the framework of statistical activity on modern issues.

4) Development of traditional links and cooperation with statistical offices of CIS countries by participating in the activity of CIS interstate statistical committee.

5) The following statistics areas are the cooperation priorities of the National Statistical Service of RA:

a. economic statistics,
b. trade(commercial) statistics,
c. social and demographic statistics,
d. poverty statistics,
e. environment statistics,
f. regional statistics,
g. data dissemination ,
h. information and communication technologies.

6) The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will continue its activity towards the integration into European Statistical System within the framework of national program for implementation of Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed between the European Union and Republic of Armenia.

7) The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will participate in the EU-Armenia Action Plan on statistics within the European Neighborhood Policy that in particular will include:

Adoption of statistical methods fully compatible with European standards and advance the modernization of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia

a. Elaborate and implement a short and medium term development strategy for harmonisation with European standards in the relevant statistical areas, based on a global assessment of the Armenian statistical system by EU experts;
b. Improve the quality and coverage of the business register;
c. Prepare and implement an agricultural census according to FAO guidelines.

PART 5. STAFF TRAINING

The staff training of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia will be continued for 2007-2009 that would be implemented by participation in the training courses, seminars and workshops organized by the international organizations, national statistical

services, as well as processes of training and attestation implemented with a purpose to continuous improvement of professional knowledge and working skills and determination of conformity with the occupied position of the civil servants of staff of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia.

PART 6. FINANCING OF STATISTICAL SPHERE

The financing of the implementation of the above mentioned and other measures for 2007-2009 is envisaged to implement through the following main modes (sources).

a) Funds of the state budget of the Republic of Armenia (including funds provided by non- taxpayers) for the implementation of work foreseen by the annual state statistical work program.

b) Funds provided from the state budget of the Republic of Armenia, as well as funds provided by non- taxpayers for the additional work implemented over the annual state statistical work program.

ANNEX 6: LIST OF INDICATORS SUBMITTED TO THE NSS FOR STATE STATISTICAL WORK BY BODIES IMPLEMENTING ADMINISTRATIVE STATISTICS

Body implementing administrative statistics	***Indicator***
NATIONAL ACCOUNTS	
Ministry of Finance of RA	Expenditures of the state budget of the Republic of Armenia by groups of functional classification by structure of economic classification
- " -	Expenditures of administrative part of municipal budgets (administrative budgets) by structure of their economic contents
- " -	Detailed data revenues of the state budget of the Republic of Armenia
- " -	Information on availability and movement of fixed assets of budgetary organizations of the Republic of Armenia in 2008
Central Bank of RA	Information on Income and Expenditure items for 2008 Central Bank • other organizations of monetary intermediation • organizations providing other financial intermediation services • organizations providing services on auxiliary activities in financial intermediation • insurance companies

- " -	Information on items of Income and Expenditure for 2008, by sub-sectors – by the characteristics of share controlled in the authorized capital stock (organisations controlled by public, national private and foreign investors) • Central Bank • other organizations of monetary intermediation • organizations providing other financial intermediation services • organizations providing services on auxiliary activities in financial intermediation • insurance companies
- " -	Indicator of financial intermediation services indirectly measured
Social Insurance State Service of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of RA	Detailed information on current expenditures of security and development of Social Insurance State Service of the Republic of Armenia
INDUSTRY	
Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of RA	Electricity balance of the economy
-''-	Main indicators of industry, volume of production (at current and comparable prices), sale of finished product, production of industrial products in kind, average number of employees
-''-	Produced output (at current and comparable prices), sale by power stations (organizations)
AGRICULTURE	
Ministry of Agriculture of RA	Information on forestry
-''-	Availability and movement of fixed assets, uncompleted non-current tangible assets and non-tangible assets in forestry
-''-	On catch and sold volumes in fishing and fishery
-''-	Implementation of state tasks targeted to land productivity increae

-‘’-	Import of mineral fertilizers and their use
-‘’-	Availability of tractors, combines and other agricultural machines in farms, commercial organizations by regions
-‘’-	Puchase of grape, fruit and vegetables
-‘’-	Funds allocated from the state budget for measures of agriculture development of RA by directions
-‘’-	Situation on land development (irrigable, dry) by regions
Ministry of Justice of RA, Ministry of Defense of RA, **National Security Service under the RA Government,** **RA Police under the Government of RA,**	Puchase of crop and livestock products
State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre under the RA Government	Availability and distribution of land of RA for 2008 by categories, owners and plots by regions
-‘’-	Availability and distribution of irrigable land by categories and plots by regions
Regional municipalities of RA	Availability of farms and commercial organizations and their land
CONSTRUCTION	
Ministry of Urban Development of RA, **State Committee of Water Resources of the Ministry of Territorial Administration of RA**	Availability and movement of fixed assets, uncompleted non-current tangible assets and non-tangible assets
-‘-	Availability and use of construction machines

Ministry of Urban Development of RA, **Ministries implementing construction,** **State Committee of Water Resources of the Ministry of Territorial Administration of RA,** **Regional municipalities of RA (Municipality of Yerevan city)**	Putting into operation of fixed assets of units, implementation of construction and non-completed construction at the end of the year, including technological and reproductive structure of construction
-‘’-	Putting into operation of fixed assets of units and implementation of construction
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS	
Office of the RA President, **Office of the RA Government ,** **Office of RA National Assembly,** **Ministries of RA (excluding power ministries),** **State government bodies under the RA Government ,** **Territorial Administration Bodies of RA,** **Permanent Commissions created by laws,** **Juridical and legal bodies,** **Banking system,** **Unions, funds,** **Scientific and educational institutions**	Road transport and length of motor roads of non-general purpose transport
Ministry of Transport and Communications of RA	General purpose motor roads and their structure
- “ -	Work of general purpose railway transport

- “ -	Production of general purpose railway transport
RA Police under the RA Government (Road Police)	Road and transport accidents
-‘’-	Remove cars from the registration with a purpose of disposal
-‘’-	Number of registered in the RA territory motor vehicles passed technical expertize by
	a) types and marks
	b) belonging to trading organizations and citizens
	c) regions and cities
General Department of Civil Aviation under the RA Government	Work of air transport
- “ -	Work of charter flights
- “ -	Work of regular flights
- “ -	Schedule flights of planes, helicopters
- “ -	Calendar time of planes, helicopters
- “ –	Production of general purpose air transport of Armenian rolling stock
- “ –	Delivery and arrival of passengers, post, freight and luggage by airports

- " –	Volumes of passenger and freight transportations implemented by air transport by organizations a/ name of organization, b/ number of employees, c/ volume of transported freight, d/ number of transported passengers
Territorial Administration Bodies of RA	General purpose motor roads and their structure
TRADE AND OTHER SERVICES	
Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of RA, State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre under the RA Government	Volume of services
Municipalities of Yerevan City, Urban Municipalities of RA, Rural Municipalities of RA	Number of trade organizations and occupied areas
PRICES AND TARIFFS	
Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of RA	The observation of products tariffs of organizations of the energy system of RA and calculation of average tariffs
Ministry of Urban Development of RA	Calculated index of changes of the cost of capital investments and building and assembly work
- " -	Information on market prices of building materials, constructions, products
- " -	Observation of prices of components of capital construction and calculation of average prices
Central bank of the Republic of Armenia	Programming indicators of inflation
1	***2***

LABOUR MARKLET	
Office of the RA President, **Office of the RA Government ,** **Office of RA National Assembly,** **Ministries of RA,** **Bodies under the Ministries,** **Permanent Commissions created by laws,** **State government bodies under the RA Government , Juridical and legal bodies,** **Banking system,** **Scientific and educational institutions,** **Municipality of Yerevan city,** **"Electricity Networks of Armenia" Closed joint-stock company,** **"ArmenTel" Closed joint-stock company,** **"Gh – Telecom" Closed joint-stock company, "ArmRusGazindustry" Closed joint-stock company,** **"Armenian Water Supply and Sewerage" Closed joint-stock company**	Number of employees, compensation of employees by: a) type of activities b) economic sectors c) regions (marzes) d) urban/rural areas e) sex Labour cost by: a) type of activities Turnover of employees by: a) type of activities Vocational training of employees by: a) type of activities b) economic sectors c) regions (marzes) d) sex.

Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of RA, Ministry of Transport and Communications of RA, General Department of Civil Aviation under the RA Government, **Government "Electricity Networks of Armenia" closed joint-stock company,** **"GeoProMining Gold" Limited liability company,** **"Armenia" International Airport Closed joint-stock company,** **"ArmenTel" Closed joint-stock company,** **"Gh – Telecom" Closed joint-stock company, "ArmRusGazindustry" Closed joint-stock company,** **"Armenian Water Supply and Sewerage" Closed joint-stock company**	Working conditions, benefits and allowances for dangerous and harmful conditions by: a) type of activities b) economic sectors c) regions (marzes) d) sex.
Ministry of Labour and Social Affaires of RA	Work placement and employment of jobless population applied to State Employment Service
- " -	Work placement and employment of jobless population applied to State Employment Service
Ministries of RA, State government bodies under the RA Government , Bodies under the Ministries, **Permanent Commissions created by laws**	Observation of compensation of employees of non-market spheres' services (state establishment) by type of occupations
STATE REGISTER	
Ministry of Justice of RA	Summary data on registered legal persons and individual entrepreneurs (including organizations) Information on trading legal persons with foreign participant , including organizations in the Republic of Armenia

BUSINESS REGISTER	
Ministry of Justice of RA	Information collection on data related to the business register of legal persons and individual entrepreneurs registered in the Republic of Armenia
State Revenue Committee under the RA Government	Information collection on data related to the business register of legal persons and individual entrepreneurs registered in the Republic of Armenia
PRIVATIZATION	
Department of State Real Estate under the RA Government	Results of privatization of organizations (companies)
FINANCES AND MONETARY CIRCULATION	
Ministry of Finance of RA	Execution of state budget of the Republic of Armenia by financing (by economic and functional classification)
- " -	Execution of state budget of the Republic of Armenia by the actual reports (by economic and functional classification)
- " -	Execution of municipal budgets by budgetary classification
- " -	Domestic state debt of the Republic of Armenia by term, profitability
- " -	External state debt of the Republic of Armenia by creditors and credit programs, foreign currency, instruments
Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia	Information on activity of insurance market
- " -	Summary indicators of insurance companies

- “ -	Foreign exchange rates
- “ -	Summary indicators of Balance sheet of the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia
-‘’-	Summary indicators of banking system
- “ –	Credits of commercial banks by term
- “ –	Average interest rates of deposits attracted and loans provided by banks
- “ –	Residual of deposits attracted from population in banks
- “ -	Turnover of cash box of banking system
- “ -	Money multiplier
- “ -	Number of customers of banks
- “ –	Deposits of commercial banks by sectors of economy
- “ –	Loans of commercial banks by sectors of economy
- “ -	Loans of crediting organizations
- “ -	General assets and general liabilities of the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia
- “ –	Number of banks and their branches (including number of banks without licence)
- “ –	International reserves of he Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia
- “ –	General capital (authorized capital and general reserve) of the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia
- “ -	Information on securities market

- " -	General assets, liabilities, capital, profit (loss) of commercial banks of the Republic of Armenia
- " –	Number of profitable commercial banks and general profit
- " –	Number of unprofitable commercial banks and general loss
- " –	Revenues and expenditures of commercial banks of the Republic of Armenia
- " –	Revenues and expenditures of the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FOREIGN TRADE	
Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of RA	Volumes of import and export of services for cultural, sport and rest events
Ministry of Finance of RA	Use, repayment and service of foreign credits, gross foreign public debt
State Revenue Committee under the RA Government	Information on Customs Statistics **a)information on customs declarations«** type of declaration (number of indicator according to the Customs declarations), exporter, importer, country of purchase/sale, country of consignment/destination, country of consignment/destination, country of origin , country of destination, means of transport at the arrival place, terms of delivery, means of transport on the border, total amount of invoice, exchange rate, the character of transaction, internal means of transport, quantity and type of goods, goods code, country of origin, brutto weight kg, procedure, netto weight kg, additional unit, value of goods, license, statistical value, date **b) customs declarations of baggages of citizens.** type of declaration (indicator number according to the form MV-1 A), name of goods, measurement unit, quantity, code of goods, quantity of goods in USD
- " -	**Customs declarations of baggages of citizens (by country - goods breakdown).** type of declaration (indicator number according to the MV-1A, 1), means of transport, country of purchase, country of consignment, name of goods, measure unit, quantity, code of goods, country of origin, quantity of goods, quantity of goods in USD

Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia	BOP indicators in financial system and insurance companies
- " -	Flows of International Investment Position and Ballance of Payments related to the Central Bank, Government, banks and insurance companies of RA
- " -	Information on External Debt on the Central Bank of RA, financial system and insurance companies
- " -	Information on volumes of received and transferred money through the financial system
SOCIAL-DEMOGRAPHY	
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of RA	Activity of medical and social expertise commissions
-"-	Number of disabled people
-"-	On state benefits
-"-	On adoption
Ministry of Health of RA	Medical-aid given to pregnant, patients in delivery, women recently confined (by age)
-"-	Active diseases of tuberculosis (by sex and age)
-"-	Patients with tuberculosis (by sex and age)
-"-	Diseases with infections of mainly sexually transmitted, fungal affections of skin and scab (by sex and age)
-"-	Patients with infections of mainly sexually transmitted, fungal affections of skin and scab (by sexual and age structure)
-"-	Patients with cancer (by sex and age)
-"-	Distribution of patients with cancer by sex and age

-"-	Patients with psychiatric disorders (by sex and age)
-"-	Diseases with psychiatric disorders (without alcoholic psychosis, alcohol abusing, drug abusing, toxin abusing by sex and age)
-"-	Alcohol, drug, toxin abusers (by sex and age)
-"-	Diseases with drug disorders (by sex and age)
-"-	Activity of stations, hospital departments of blood and its components reserving and blood transfusion
-"-	Activity of ambulance station (department) (by republic and marzes)
-"-	Judicial-medical experts and judicial-medical examination
-"-	Work of commission of judicial-psychiatric examination
-"-	Activity of hygienic anti-epidemic control and disinfection centres
-"-	Preventing vaccination
-"-	Quantity structure of children and teenagers vaccinated against infectious diseases (by sex and age)
-"-	Health and healthcare in the Republic of Armenia
-"-	Separate infectious and parasite diseases
Ministry of Health of RA	Results of researches about person's immunodeficiency disorders
-"-	Activity of medical preventing organizations
-"-	Activity of hospitals
-"-	Medical personnel

-"-	Specialised toxicosis and specialised diseases
-"-	Separate infectious and parasite diseases
-"-	Number of diseases registered among population serviced by medical preventing organisations
-"-	Health state of children up to five years old
-"-	Healthcare given to the children
-"-	Activity of special dangerous infections preventing centre
-"-	Activity of private dentist room
-"-	Compulsory implementation of court's acts
Ministry of Justice of RA	Activity of notary office
Ministry of Economy of RA	Standardisation, certification, accreditation
Ministry of Nature Protection of RA	Hazardous substances emitted into atmosphere from stationary sources
-"-	Payments for environmental protection and use
-"-	Generation, use and discharge of waste
-"-	Reserves, preserves and national park
-"-	Activity of hunting farms
-"-	Water use
-"-	Atmospheric emissions from motor vehicles
-"-	State control of environment and natural resources efficient use

-“-	Reforestation work, use of non-wood raw and resources
-“-	Reforestation, protective and sanitary loggings
-“-	Rest of wood in glades and logged areas
-“-	Forest fires
-“-	Forestry work
-“-	Forest protection
-“-	Forest violations
-“-	Protection and reproduction of valuable industrial fish
-“-	About quantity and quality of surface and underground water
-“-	Pollution of natural environment
Ministry of Agriculture of RA	Reforestation work, use of non-wood raw and resources
-“-	Reforestation, protective and sanitary loggings
-“-	Rest of wood in glades and logged areas
-“-	Forest fires
-“-	Forestry work
-“-	Forest protection
-“-	Forest violations

Ministry of Education and Science of RA	Quantity of free and paying places of magistracy, post-graduate course, doctor's degree an distribution of professions by organizations
-“-	Number of citizens of the Republic of Armenia studying overseas, of which by intergovernmental contracts, by education levels (general educatio preliminary (professional) secondary and high specialized educational establishments, magistracy, post-graduate course, doctor's degree program, other projects)
-“-	Number of foreigners studying in the Republic of Armenia by education levels (general educatio preliminary (professional) secondary and high specialized educational establishments, magistracy post-graduate course, doctor's degree program, other projects)
-“-	Entrance order, quantities of payments for education and number of places of secondary specialized, high establishments
-“-	Results of entrance examinations by separate secondary specialized, high establishments
-“-	List of organizations received finance for scientific-technical works and volumes of financing
-“-	Activity of general educational establishments
Ministry of Culture of RA	Publishing of newspapers, periodicals, books, brochures
Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of RA	Physical training and sport works
Ministry of Finance of RA	Name list and money deduction for increasing environmental use efficiency and environmental activities (anticipated and actual executive)
State Revenue Committee under the RA Government	Proceedings that are under investigation body's conduction in tax system

State Revenue Committee under the RA Government	Proceedings that are under investigation body's conduction in custom system
Ministry of Economy of RA, **Ministry of Justice of RA,** **Ministry of Nature Protection of RA,** **Ministry of Agriculture of RA,** **Ministry of Urban Development of RA,** **Ministry of Health of RA,** **Ministry of Transport and Communications of RA,** **Ministry of Defence of RA,** **Ministry of Finance of RA,** **Ministry of Territorial Administration of RA,** **National Security Service under the RA Government,** **State Revenue Committee under the RA Government,** **RA Police under the RA Government,** **State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre under the RA Government ,** **General Department of Civil Aviation under the RA Government,** **Social Insurance State Service of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of RA,** **Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia,** **Public Services Regulating Commission of RA,** **State Commission of Economic Competition Protection of RA,** **National Statistical Service of RA,** **Territorial Administration Bodies of RA,** **Local self-government bodies of RA**	Number of revealed administrative violations and number of persons incurred an administrative responsibility
Ministry of Defence of RA	Activity of high specialized state educational establishments
Judical Department of RA	Number of condemned underage people (by types of crimes and sex and age)

-"-	Structure of condemned persons, place where the crime was done and time (by types of crimes and sex and age)
-"-	Number of persons incurred an criminal responsibility and implementation of criminal punishment (by types of crimes and sex and age)
Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of RA	Geological exploration work
-"-	Balance of minerals reserves
-"-	Number of persons incurred an criminal responsibility and implementation of criminal punishment (by types of crimes and sex and age)
National Academy of Sciences of RA	Scientific-technical work
Territorial Administration Bodies of RA	Activity of libraries
Regional municipalities, Urban municipalities of RA	Activity of museums
Regional municipalities, Urban municipalities of RA	Activity of theatres
-"-	Activity of concert organizations
RA Police under the RA Government	Number of crimes by types of crimes
-"-	Crimes
State Committee of Water Resources of the Ministry of Territorial Administration of RA	Water supply work
-"-	Sewerage work
Ministry of Emergency Situations of RA	Emergency situations

-"-	Evaluation of climate conditions of the area of the Republic Armenia and status of surface water objects
-"-	About hydrometeorological conditions observed during the month
State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre under th RA Government	Alienation of real estate
-"-	Analysis of the real estate market of the Republic of Armenia
-"-	Housing stock
State Social Insurance Service of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of RA	Total number of pensioners, size of pension sum
Territorial Administration Bodies of RA	Pre-school establishments
-"-	Musical, art, artistic schools and juvenile centers
Regional Municipalities of RA	Capital costs and investments in the environmental sphere
-"-	Lands improvement
Municipality of Yerevan city	Lands improvement
Urban Municipalities of RA	Mechanized sanitary cleaning of cities' area
-"-	Cities' road economy
-"-	City lands and green areas
Urban Municipalities of RA	Housing stock
Municipalities of Yerevan city	Libraries activity

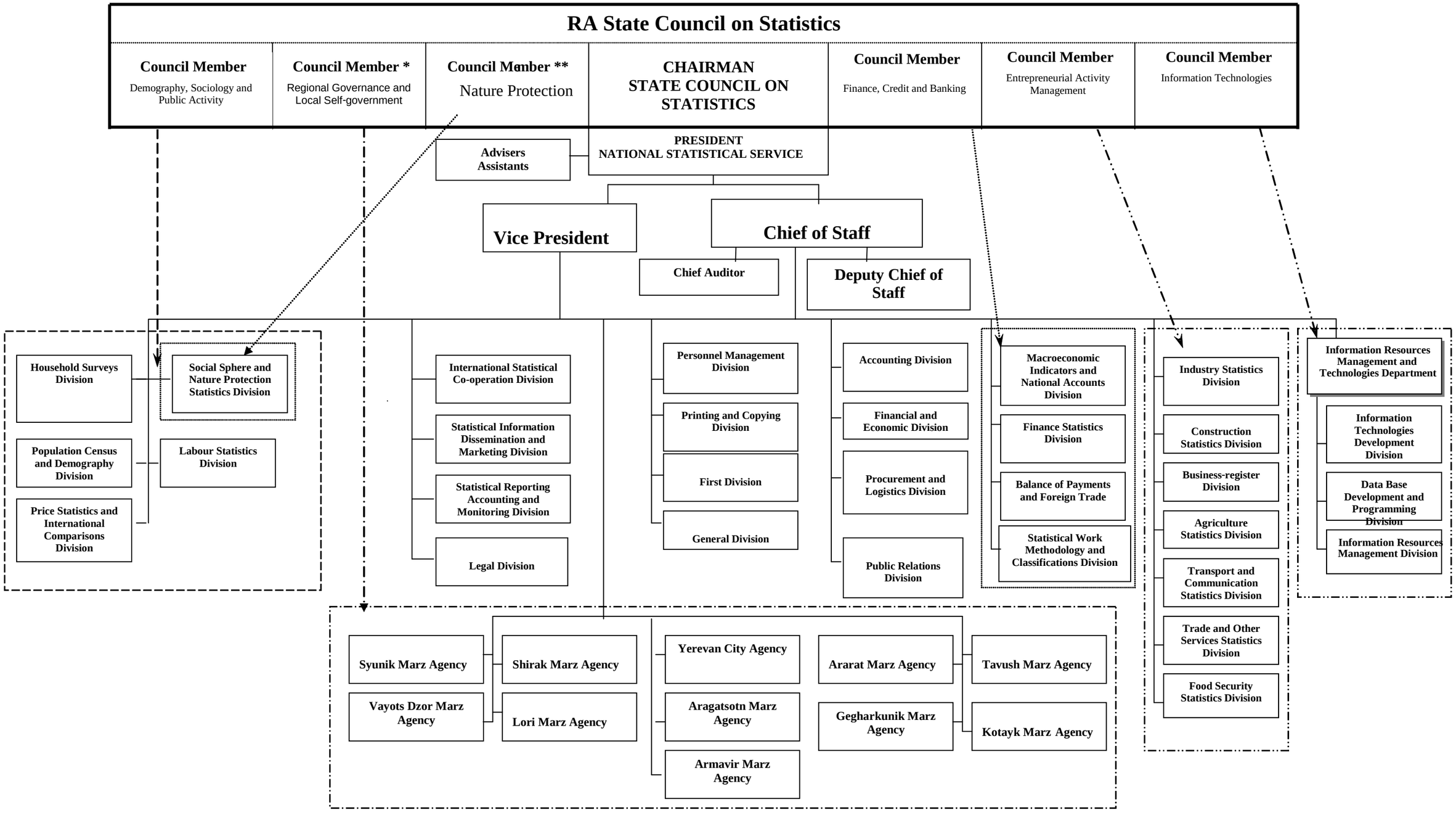
-"-	Pre-school establishments
-"-	Musical, art, artistic schools and juvenilia centers
Rural Municipalities of RA	Sexual and age structure of rural population on January 1 of 2009
-"-	Housing stock
-"-	Libraries activity
-"-	Pre-school establishments
FOOD SECURITY	
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of RA	The total number of children in RA state orphanages, of which specialized
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of RA	From the RA State orphanages and special general educational institutions a) number of children moved to biological family b) number of children moved to relatives
-"-	Number of children in tutorial families and adopted children
-"-	Number of children in day-centres of child care and protection
-"-	Number of children out of risk to be engaged in RA state orphanages and special general educational institutions
-"-	On graduates of child care institutions
Ministry of Emergency Situations of RA	Agro – meteorological analysis

Ministry of Agriculture of RA	Number of agricultural animals with anthrax
-"-	Number of agricultural animals with brucellosis
-"-	Number of agricultural animals with tuberculosis
-"-	Number of pigs with plague
-"-	Number of agricultural animals with A, O and Asia murrain
-"-	Number of cattle with carbuncle emphysematous
-"-	Surveyed areas by marzes and plots, (hectare**)**, of which infected with a) locusts b) rodents
-"-	Number of rodents' holes and locusts before and after the protective actions by marzes and plots, hectare a) in the areas of protective actions b) in the areas of non- protective actions
-"-	The areas not previously infected with locusts by marzes and plots, where the mature locusts flocks are available, hectare
Ministry of Agriculture of RA	Illegal loggings a) number of trees, unit b) volume, cubic meter
-"-	Officially registered illegal loggings a) number of trees, unit b) volume, cubic meter

-“-	Fire prevention roads, km a) newly built b) reconstructed
-“-	Forest fires a) fired woodland, of which forest-covered area, hectare b) number of fires, unit
-“-	Damage caused by fire, thousand drams
-“-	Availability of hotbeds of forest pests and diseases at the beginning of year, hectare a) of which need pest-control measures b) eliminated by pest-control measures Availability of hotbeds of forest pests and diseases at the end of year, hectare a) of which need pest-control measures
-“-	Planted and sown woodlands a) forest planting and sowing, hectare b) average weighted implantation, % c) destroyed (subject to striking off) forest crops, hectare

-"-	Produced planting stocks, thousand units a) seedlings b) saplings
-"-	Volume of reforestation (including coppice) and afforestation, hectare
State Committee of Water Resources of the Ministry of Territorial Administration of RA	Lands with higher dampness in the territory of irrigated lands of Ararat valley, hectare

ANNEX 7: NSS ORGANISATIONAL CHART



Note: [1.] Dotted lines show subdivisions under the coordination of appropriate Council Member as well as the staff structure of NSSRA in general with description of statistical functions.
[2.] Apart from State Council on Statistics continuous lines show the staff structure of NSSRA with description of civil service, administrative and economic functions.

* Co-ordinates the organization and maintenance of statistics in accordance with RA administrative-territorial division and other regional context, statistical work of NSS RA Marz Agencies, as well as registers implementing administrative statistics by regions.

** Co-ordinates the work of all subdivisions implementing statistics related to environment statistics, as well as administrative register on environment jointly with the Council member co-ordinating the field of the regional governance and local self-government.