Introduction to the United Nations and the Statistical Commission

Orientation session for new delegates
49th Statistical Commission
Monday 5 March 2018, New York
Signing of UN Charter
San Francisco, USA
26 June 1945
Purposes of the UN

• To maintain international peace and security [...] 
• To develop friendly relations among nations [...] 
• To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights [...] 
• To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends
UN principal organs

- General Assembly (GA)
- Security Council (SC)
- Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Secretariat
- International Court of Justice
- Trusteeship Council
The terms of reference of the Commission state that it shall assist the Council:

- In promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability;
- In the coordination of the statistical work of specialized agencies;
- In the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat;
- In advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information;
- In promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally.
Statistical Commission membership

- Nowadays, Commission consists of 24 Member States of the UN elected by the ECOSOC
- 4 year terms
- Based on an equitable geographical distribution
- All other states are considered Observers
- Bureau = Chair + 3 vice-chairs + rapporteur
Statistics Division functions

- Secretariat of the UN Statistical Commission
- Data
- Methodology
- Capacity development
- Coordination
Statistics Division work programmes

- Energy Statistics
- Gender Statistics
- Industry Statistics
- National Accounts
- Tourism Statistics
- Trade Statistics
- Big data for official statistics
- Demographic and Social Statistics
- Development indicators
- Environmental-Economic Accounting
- Environment Statistics
- Geospatial Information
- Statistical Classifications
Statistics Division publications
GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING
FIRST BASEMENT

19. Conference Room 4
   Salle de conférence 4

20. Conference Room 5, 6, 7, 8
    Salles de conférence 5, 6, 7, 8

21. Vienna Café
    Café Vienne

22. Conference Room E
    Salle de conférence E

23. Conference Room 11, 12
    Salles de conférence 11, 12

24. Conference Room F
    Salle de conférence F

25. Briefing Room
    Salle d’accueil et d’information

26. Visitor’s briefing room
    Salle des exposés

27. Visitor’s Cafe
    Café des visiteurs

28. UN Gift Centre
    Boutique-cadeaux de l’ONU

29. Agencies Kiosk
    Comptoir de souvenirs des Nations Unies

30. UN Bookstore
    Librairie de l’ONU

Map Key – Légende:
- Stair Escalier
- Elevator Ascenseur
- Information Information
- Women’s Restroom Toilettes des femmes
- Men’s Restroom Toilettes des hommes
- Bank Banque
- UN Postal Administration Administration postale des Nations Unies
- Drinking Fountains Fontaines