Statistical Commission
Forty-third session
28 February – 2 March 2012
Item 4 (h) of the provisional agenda
Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

Background document Available in English only

# **Global Inventory of Statistical Standards**

Prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division

# **Global Inventory of Statistical Standards**

Background Document

## 1. Introduction

At the international level, principle No. 9, ("International Co-ordination") of the "Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics" of the United Nations establishes that: "The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels".

Under this framework, the Global Inventory of Statistical Standards has been developed:

- To compile standards recommended by the main International Organizations, in one database, systematized by types of standard and by statistical or geographical themes and sub-themes of national interest
- To provide basic information about the standard, such as; objective, the international
  organization that recommends it, version, description of the standard and the URL to
  the original information source from which the standard is obtained (see: Metadata
  Model)
- To make clear the network of international organizations involved in the development and dissemination of statistical standards

Document E/CN.3/2012/27 of the forty-third session of the Statistical Commission (Work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities: Report of the Secretary-General) describes the background leading to the development of the GISS prototype. Reference is also Statistical Commission documents E/CN.3/2010/14 and E/CN.3/2011/30.

# 2. Home Page

The URL of the home page of the GISS system is http://unstats.un.org/unsd/iiss



The navigation menu on the left-hand side provides three ways to access the standards in the system:

- 1. A list of standards, further divided into three types:
  - Classifications
  - Concepts and Definitions
  - Methodologies and Procedures
- 2. The DISA<sup>1</sup> classification of statistical activities
- 3. A list of international organizations who are the maintenance organizations of the standards

#### **View 1:** List of Statistical Standards

Below is a screen-shot of the first view, arranged by standard type:

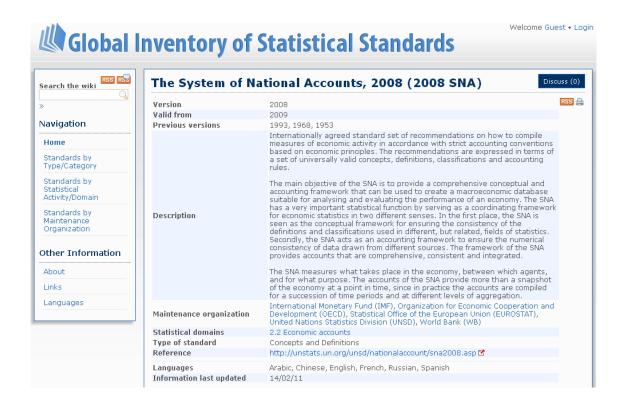


The third type, Methodologies and Procedures, is not visible in the screen shot but appears below Concepts and Definitions.

Clicking on any standard links to that particular card with all the information as described above. For example, the System of National Accounts 2008:

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Database of International Statistical Activities in the UNECE region, October 2009 version.



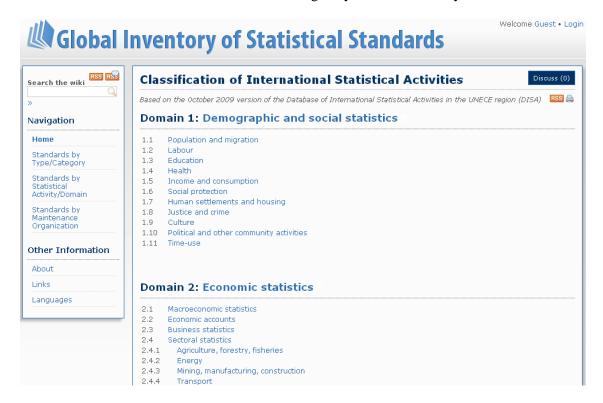
It should be noted that the reference field offers the user, wherever possible, a direct link to the actual standard.

Each standard has the same fields as in the screen-shot above, based on the following information content model:

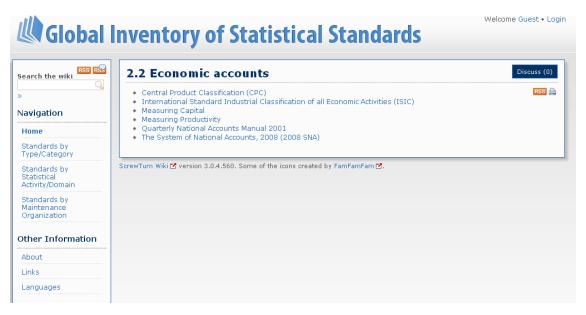
Element	Description
Name	Full official name of the standard, plus any alternative names and acronyms
Version	The version of the standard (where applicable)
Valid from	Date on which the standard was adopted (or published)
Previous versions	References and links to previous versions of the standard
Description	Brief description of the standard, including objective, intended use and relationship to other standards
Maintenance organisation	The organisation or group responsible for approving and maintaining the standard
Statistical domain(s)	The domains in which the standard is used (according to the DISA classification of statistical activities)
Type of standard	Categories: (a) Concepts and definitions (b) Classifications (c) Methodologies and procedures (Note: other categories can be added as needed)
References	References and links to the standard and any other material that helps understanding or implementation of it
Language	Language(s) in which the standard is published
Information last updated / validated	The date on which the information above was last updated or verified to be correct

#### View 2: Classification of International Statistical Activities

Below is a screen-shot of the second view, arranged by statistical activity:



The domain items that appear in blue are hyperlinked and each lead to a page listing all standards relating to that domain and item. For example, clicking on 2.2 Economic accounts brings up the following page:



## **View 3:** List of International Organizations

The third and final way to navigate to standards is through the organizations that maintain them. A list of organizations which have submitted standards to the GISS is shown in the screenshot below:



## 3. Other Functions

#### 1. About

This page provides background information on the project as well as the information content model and functionality of the system.

#### 2. Links

Other inventories of standards, such as those provided by EUROSTAT – will have links on this page.

## 3. Languages

The system interface is currently only in English. For the second phase of the project it is planned to add navigation pages to the other five UN official languages.

In addition, each standard card mentions (and, where applicable, links to) the versions of the standards in languages other than English. For example, the screen shot below shows a standard with versions in all six official languages available:



## 4. User Feedback

The inventory in its current version constitutes work in progress. The international organizations of the Committee on the Coordination of Statistical Activities are committed to continuously improve the content and functionality of the system. In this context it would be useful to receive user feedback. We therefore invite users to contact UNSD at <a href="mailto:statistics@un.org">statistics@un.org</a> with their questions and comments.