

#### 4a Health statistics (Statistics Netherlands, also on behalf of the EU and the United States)

Chair,

The report by WHO on the progress of the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) shows that nowadays international health classifications are very detailed and complex, and have extensive connections with the state of art of hospital and health information systems. The efforts of WHO and the many expert committees to bring the classification to a new, higher level are much appreciated.

As regards the usefulness and benefits of the new features, however, it must be realised that these have only been described in the conceptual stage, and as yet never have been tested in practice. The current state of ICD-11 revision appears to lead to insufficient quality and stability for use in mortality statistics even taking into account the additional improvements that are foreseen in the time span of less than two years.

It has to be reconsidered whether ICD-11 can be adopted as a mandatory international classification at the World Health Assembly, if no major adjustments of the plans are undertaken.

We expect WHO to take the necessary steps to integrate the recommendations included in the statement of the Working Group on Public Health Statistics meeting on 16-17 December 2014 on progress of the International Classification of Diseases (11th Revision) into the remainder of the revision process, in order to arrive at an acceptable level of quality of the new ICD and to make sure that existing applications of ICD can also be performed with the future version.

Finally, we expect UNSD to inform the WHO on the concerns expressed by the Commission on the ICD-11 revision.

Thank you Chair.