

Meeting of the Chief Statisticians of the UN System

New York, 6 March 2016
United Nations Headquarters, Room DC2-1684
15:30 – 17:30

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Mission Statement

1. The UN Statistical System Coordination group promotes U.N system-wide integrated and coherent actions towards the enhancement and modernization of sustainable statistical systems from member states and other members of its various governing bodies promoting the coordination of statistical activities at the global, regional and national levels. It also contributes to the adoption and adequate implementation of international statistical standards in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the UN General Assembly. By meeting periodically, it intends to avoid duplications and overlaps in statistical activities through “delivering as one” and to promote data exchange.
2. The group promotes sharing of knowledge and good practices, discusses common issues related to the UN common system, plans joint activities at the global level and agrees on common positions to be discussed with broader bodies of coordination like the CCSA (Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities) or the UN Statistical Commission, as well as organises System-wide events.
3. The members of the UN Statistical System Coordination group are the Chief Statisticians or the Directors or Chiefs of Statistics Departments or units from the UN system, including all specialised agencies, programs and funds, as well as regional Economic and Social Commissions, whose principals are members of the Chief Executive Board (CEB) of the UN. UN Statistics Division within UNDESA serves as its secretariat.

Key activities and functions:

1. Establishes a UN system network by engaging all UN specialised agencies, programs, funds and the UN Secretariat including the regional Commissions with the main objective of mutual cooperation, coordination and assistance in facing common problems to the UN system at the global level. By achieving enhanced coordination mechanisms, the group contributes to better assistance to member states, also supporting national statistical agencies in their role as coordinators of national statistical systems.

2. It promotes the use of adequate harmonised international statistical standards and classifications, following the FPOS and participates actively in the discussions of the UN Statistical Commission by agreeing on common positions and statements in order to provide member states with coherent views and guidelines from the UN System when discussing frameworks, standards, concrete activities and related issues. It contributes to mutual accountability in order to have better and more transparent statistical practices globally in order to apply them correctly at the country level.
3. It tackles administrative and organizational issues like human resources, financing, resource mobilization, quality frameworks and global programmes, common to the UN practices and procedures in order to achieve and share better results for all individual members and as a global team.
4. It discusses ways of coordinating activities at the field level through UNCT and national programmes, by sharing and promoting common actions on statistical activities promoting coherence and producing joint products. It organises its work in inter-agency groups, expert groups and city groups in order to achieve more efficient outcomes.
5. Promotes coordination in data compilation and exchange in order to lower the burden of reporting by member countries, facilitating the use of modern platforms and mechanisms to provide them with the best solutions and accessibility to databases.
6. Contributes to disseminate and promote the statistical activities of the various members with the senior management of the UN, through actively involving with the HLCP and HLCM and through them to the UN CEB, in order to enhance the visibility and to strengthen the support to statistical activities in each of the organizations members of the group. It contributes to link with various governing bodies, promotes the coordination of national statistical systems through the various constituencies at the national and global level.
7. Promotes the coordination of common capacity building and technical assistance activities by undertaking common actions on specific topics, at the national, regional and global levels, in order to meet more efficiently the demands for skills.
8. Discusses emerging topics related to new technical challenges, new forms of data sources and ways of disseminating, and changes in UN donors' strategies in order to achieve better results and enhance the statistical activities carried out by the various agencies, organizations, funds and programs.
9. Discusses and contributes to the discussions on international global frameworks and monitoring systems like the MDGs, the SDGs and others in order to achieve a better division of work and assure quality in statistical outcomes.