

Meeting of the Chief Statisticians of the UN System

Rome, 10 September 2014
FAO Headquarters, Philippines Room, C-277
14:00 – 17:30

Annotated agenda

1. Opening and welcome
2. Formal establishment of the Group

Annotation: In its decision 45/112 the UN Statistical Commission “ Endorsed the proposal that the United Nations chief statisticians hold regular meetings, and mandated the group to follow up on the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair for improved coordination and report back to the Commission.” (see E/CN.3/2014/1 available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2014.htm>) These recommendations can be found in document E/CN.3/2014/13 available on the same website. This meeting will therefore have before it draft terms of reference that can serve as a starting point for discussion. This draft terms of reference currently focuses on the possible working methods of the meeting and may be amended by a "mission statement" and "key functions".

Documentation: Draft TOR (submitted by UNSD and FAO)

3. Quality assurance frameworks for UN system entities

Annotation: The Statistical Commission in its 2011 session adopted a national quality assurance framework. At the same time, quite a few statistical units of the UN system have developed or are in the process of developing their own quality assurance framework that guides their work. It is suggested that participants share the status of their quality assurance work and that as a first step an inventory could be compiled and existing frameworks could be shared.

4. Governance structures of UN system entities

Annotation: Over the past years the question of very different governance structures of UN system entities and how they relate to the UN Statistical Commission emerged in various occasions. Should the UNSC considered as the highest decision making body for international statistical activities, especially with regard to the setting of statistical standards, the development of concepts and methods and their implementation at the national and international level?

In order to foster better understanding of each others internal and external governance structures it is suggested to compile an inventory of statistical governance bodies of all UN system entities, and of their reporting practices to the UNSC.

5. Principles Governing International Statistical Activities

Annotation: Following a preliminary discussion during the meeting in March 2014 (on the margins of the 45th Session of the UN Statistical Commission), the Meeting will consider if and how to have the Principles by the principals/executive directors of entities endorse the Principles.

6. Country names

Annotation: Upon the request of the Meeting at its last meeting in March 2014, UNSD will prepare a note on how the so-called M49 country list is compiled and updated. This note could serve as a basis for stocktaking and future harmonization

7. Update on the Post-2015 Development Agenda / Open Working Group

Annotation: UNSD will brief the meeting on latest developments in the area of the post-2015 development agenda.

8. Other business