Meeting of UN entities on Statistical Programmes
New York, 29 February 2008
UNSD Conference room
3.00 – 4.30 pm
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<u>Minutes</u>

<u>Attendance:</u>

1. The meeting was attended by representatives from UNSD, DESA Population
    Division, ECE, ESCWA, ECA, ECLAC, UNCTAD, UNIDO, WHO, ILO, FAO,
    UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF.

<u>Update on recent collaborative activities and new ideas for collaborative initiatives:</u>

2. The Director of UNSD welcomed the representatives from the Statistical
    Programmes of the various UN entities and emphasized that it was useful to
    maintain this continuous informal form of dialogue to keep each other informed.
    He briefed the meeting on current UNSD initiatives such as activities related to
    the 2010 census round and the global gender statistics programme. He highlighted
    specific examples of collaborative activities between UNSD and respective UN
    agencies in the areas of agriculture statistics, tourism statistics and ICT statistics.
    He encouraged partners to prepare for the next meeting statements on the agencies
    respective programmatic priorities and possibly regional priorities with a view of
    identifying further opportunities for collaborative activities.

3. In the ensuing debate, representatives of the regional commissions encouraged
    other UN partners to involve them in activities at the regional level and to hold
    meetings at regional headquarters. The fields of 'quality standards' and 'training'
    were mentioned as generic topics on which cooperation would be useful.

4. With respect to collaborative activities at the country level, which correspond to
    the notion of the One-UN initiative, UNSD briefed the group, that it expected
    various significant trust fund contributions to support work in the areas of MDG
    indicators, gender statistics and data dissemination. This offers opportunities to
    develop specific projects together. Furthermore a suggestion was made to look
    into the "One UN-pilot countries" and analyze whether there was room to develop
    proposals to strengthen national statistical capacity. Also the importance of
    strengthening the statistical capacity of regional cluster offices was mentioned. In
    general the group agreed that efforts should be undertaken to keep each other

better informed on key country missions and priority country projects and to explore whether in cases of overlap cooperative arrangements could be made.

5. The Director of UNSD mentioned the area of geographical information and the development of spatial data infrastructures as one important area of potential future collaboration.

UN-Data project:

6. UNSD informed the meeting on the recent successful public launch of the UNdata portal and provided an update with respect to ongoing activities, especially related to efforts to incorporate additional UN System data and to extend the system to country databases. Various agencies offered to explore the possibilities to load their agency data. Questions were raised with respect to the issues of the timeliness of data updates. To the extent possible a 'pull mode' was preferred to a 'push mode'. The importance of good meta data was also stressed to allow users to make informed assessments of the quality of the data. Several partner agencies also underlined the need to provide a clear attribution of the data.

7. UNSD agreed to call a 'data manager' meeting of all participating agencies, in order to create a working level forum to address some of the more specific technical challenges and to develop proposals on the collaborative arrangements which would govern the further development of UNdata.

Future meetings and collaboration:

8. It was agreed to continue this form of dialogue at the occasion of the forthcoming CCSA meeting in Tunis and the date of Wednesday 10 September was tentatively suggested.

Annex 1: Agenda

1. Update on recent collaborative activities (global gender statistics programme, 2010 census round etc.)

2. New ideas for collaborative initiatives (e.g. Spatial Data Infrastructure)

3. UN -Data (project briefing by UNSD)

4. Preparation of September 2008 meeting

Documents:

UN-ECE: Comments on UN-data project
UNCTAD : Comments on UN-data project