

**Meeting of the UN entities on Statistical Programmes**  
**New York, 24 February 2011, 16:30 - 18:00 h**  
**UNHQ, Room DC2-1664**

=====

**Meeting notes**

Attendance:

1. The meeting was attended by representatives from ECA, ECE, ESCWA, ECLAC, ESCAP, UNSD, UNODC, UNIDO, ILO, ITU, UNESCO, FAO and UNFPA. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Paul Cheung, Director, UNSD.

World Statistics Day:

2. UNSD thanked all UN entities for the support and organization of commemorative events for the observance of the World Statistics Day (WSD). The celebration in various duty stations was a success. The meeting discussed the frequency of the celebration of WSD in the future and concluded that a 5-year period would be a reasonable and realistic time interval. A suggestion for using the statistics days of the Regional Commissions on a rotation basis was made.

Global Pulse:

3. There were different views to what extent statistical units of UN entities should be engaged in the SG's Global Pulse initiative. Some expressed the opinion, that UN entities should be prepared to respond to the two main challenges of the proposed Data Labs – the use of non-official data sources and the timely production of early warning indicators. Others were concerned with the risks involved with any kind of official engagement in this initiative which would give the data work of Global Pulse a seeming degree of legitimacy. This group was particularly concerned about the creation of “parallel” data collection systems in the countries. The meeting generally agreed that (1) there will not be a uniform position and each organization would be free to engage in the Global Pulse activities as it sees fit and (2) Continued sharing of information and experiences among UN entities regarding Global Pulse is useful.

Global Geospatial Information Management:

4. UNSD briefed the meeting that Member States had widely supported the idea that the UN serve as the intergovernmental forum for Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) to provide coordination and support the work to develop common frameworks and tools. This global mechanism will also encourage efforts for facilitating the transfer of knowledge and expertise to develop capacity of the developing countries for merging statistical and geo-spatial information. UNSD furthermore informed the meeting that a letter to agencies was sent by the USG in December 2010, seeking their support for the GGIM initiative. More detailed information is posted on the UNSD website (<http://ggim.un.org/>).

#### Proposed Global Survey Coordination Mechanism and Data Depository:

5. UNSD informed the meeting about the proposed new initiative on Global Survey Coordination Mechanism and Data Depository. The demand for free access to statistical databases is expected to rise further in the future. The two components of the initiative – the Coordination Mechanism and the Data Depository, are in fact an extension of the International Household Survey Network. UNSD was exploring with the WB to host census data of all countries. It is expected that the initiative will involve all UN entities. UNSD welcomes any suggestions and views.

#### China International Statistical Training Centre in collaboration with UN Statistics:

6. UNSD briefed the meeting about the newly established Training Centre in China. It is entirely funded by the Chinese Government and aims at strengthening statistical capacity globally, and especially among the developing countries. UN entities would have the opportunity to take advantage of this initiative and provide training in their respective areas of work. Specific mechanisms on how the trainings will be organized, including the establishment of a Programme Committee, are under preparation.

#### Development Indicators and MDG 2015:

7. With the approach of the 2015 target date, the UN entities are preparing for the post 2015 MDGs environment. UNSD had just received a note from the Deputy Secretary General plans to hold a meeting on the post MDGs 2015 scenarios. The data elements of any future scenarios of MDGs are of course of significant interest to all statistical units of UN entities. The group agreed to keep each other informed on any future developments in this area.

#### Fundamental principles:

8. UNSD informed the meeting that a Friends of the Chairs group will be set up to revise and update the language of the preamble and to develop a practical guide for the implementation of the principles. The proposed assessments of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles will be carried out with the help of the Regional Commissions. In this context, UNECE informed the meeting that it had relevant experience to contribute from a survey on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles that was conducted only a year ago and from country assessments, some of which had been undertaken in cooperation with Eurostat.

#### Other business:

9. The group agreed to hold its next meeting in conjunction with the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the CCSA in Luxembourg, in the morning of 7 September 2011 (Wednesday).