

Meeting of the UN entities on Statistical Programmes

New York, 6 March 2014, 15:00 – 17:00 h

UNHQ, DC2-2330

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Minutes

Attendance:

1. The meeting was attended by representatives from FAO, ILO, ODC, ESCWA, UNIDO, ECE, UIS, ECA, UNPD, UNFPA, ITU, UNICEF, ECLAC, ESCAP, UNICEF, UNHCR, OCHA and UNWTO. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, UNSD.

Implications of the Report of the Friends of the Chair on the coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system (E/CN.3/2014/13):

2. This part of the meeting took the format of a brainstorming session, during which the following thoughts/concerns were expressed:
 - Coordination, in general, remains a delicate issue and could be started as “soft” coordination.
 - Many coordination issues are much wider than the UN system, for example in the area of technical cooperation. Consequently, one has to think about how this “new” UN system meeting is positioned vis-à-vis the CCSA.

- It is important that the report to the UNSC does not duplicate the CCSA report. It is important to take this opportunity and truly lead in a few relevant and important areas.
- This will require appropriate resources from UNSD as the secretariat and the development of a proper strategy and work plan. It also requires that all UN entities are present and cooperate. However, the overall commitment could be lightened by organizing this meeting on a subset of topics of the CCSA agenda.
- Another link with the CCSA could be that the “UN-co-chair” of CCSA is also the chair of the UN System Meeting.
- So far, the one or two meetings per year back-to-back with the UNSC/CCSA have worked well and should be continued.
- Possible starting points for coordination data (where it all started), more specifically quality assurance frameworks and the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities

Areas of common interest/cooperation

3. Regarding quality assurance frameworks, it was decided that organizations with existing frameworks (i.e. FAO, UNCTAD, ODC, ECE and UIS) would share these as a starting point.
4. Regarding the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities, different possibilities were discussed on who should sign the commitments within the UN entities. A letter from the USG Wu to the Chief Executive Board (CEB) asking for endorsement was considered as one way forward.
5. In addition, harmonization of country names was brought up and UNSD agreed to provide a briefing note for the next meeting.

Post-2105 Development Agenda:

6. Many participants expressed their concerns about the various parallel processes regarding the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the pressure they are under within their organization to follow all of them as their organisation “has to be there”. It was also mentioned that the UN Statistical Commission needs to take a stronger position vis-à-vis ECOSC when it comes to indicators.

Other business:

7. The group agreed to hold its next meeting in the afternoon of 10 September 2014 in conjunction with the fall 2014 session of the of CCSA in Rome.