

**Meeting of UN entities on Statistical Programmes**  
**Tunis, Tunisia, 10 September 2008**  
**02:00 pm – 04:30 pm**

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**Minutes**

Attendance:

1. The meeting was attended by representatives from UNSD, ECA, ECE, ESCAP, UNODC, UNCTAD, World Tourism Organization, ILO, FAO, UN Population Fund, UNESCO, and International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Briefing on recent system wide cross cutting activities:

2. The Director of UNSD welcomed the representatives from the Statistical Programmes of the various UN entities. He briefed them on ongoing initiatives and cross cutting activities in the following areas: (i) Millennium Development Goals - the launching of the MDGs Report 2008 and holding of the High-level event on MDGs as part of the 63<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly; (ii) DFID project on the development of a global dissemination infrastructure; (iii) forthcoming Expert Group meeting on Agricultural statistics in Washington on 22-23 October 2008, organized by UNSD in collaboration with other international agencies; (iv) Climate change meeting, to be held in South Korea in December 2008; and (v) the preparations for the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Statistical Commission, including the planned side events, such as seminars, high level forum and learning centers. In a 'tour de table' UN system agencies highlighted their forthcoming key activities.

Coordination of UN System activities at the country level:

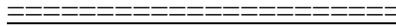
3. The Director of UNSD observed that the coordination among the UN entities at country level is very scattered. Frequently, there is insufficient awareness on the side of UN funds and programmes of the activities and capacities of other UN agencies. In the discussion, several participants expressed the view that it would be desirable to have a more coherent UN approach, allowing UN entities to identify and mobilize professional resources at national level. A database of UN statistical staff in the field was suggested. The importance of information sharing among UN entities about their activities at country level was stressed. The meeting agreed to continue the discussion within Task Team 1: Reporting mechanisms on statistical capacity building activities.

UN-Data (project briefing by UNSD):

4. UNSD briefed the meeting about the progress of the UN-Data portal and ongoing activities. The overall aim of the portal is to provide easy access to users, not only to UN System data but also to existing country level databases. The DFID project is expected to help UNSD extending the system and incorporating in it national databases. The work on a number of technical issues, such as development of supporting metadata, quality and validation, update, dissemination etc. of the database continues. The important role of the Data Managers Group meeting for the further development of UNdata was stressed.

Other business:

5. UNSD informed the participants about the proposal for observing a World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010. A worldwide consultation process on this matter has been initiated. UNSD is looking forward to the views and advices of UN entities. Further discussions on the date and how to operationalize this initiative will take place during the UN Statistical Commission in February 2009.
6. It was agreed to continue this form of informal dialogue at the occasion of the forthcoming 40<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Statistical Commission. The next meeting of the group is, therefore, tentatively planed for the afternoon of 27 February 2009.



**Annex 1: Agenda**

1. Briefing on recent system wide cross cutting activities
2. Coordination of UN System activities at the country level
3. UN-Data (project briefing by UNSD)
4. Other business