

**Meeting of the Chief Statisticians of the UN System  
Rome, 10 September 2014, 14:00- 18:00 h  
FAO Headquarters, Philippines Room, C-277**

=====

**Meeting Notes**

**Introduction**

1. The meeting was attended by representatives from FAO, ILO, ITU, UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNECA, UNECE, UNESCAP, UNESCWA, UIS, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNOCHA, UNOHCHR, UNODC, UNFPA, UNSD and UNWTO. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Stefan Schweinfest (UNSD).
2. The agenda, documents presented and a detailed list of participants are presented as annexes I, II and III, respectively.

**Opening and welcome**

3. The Meeting was opened by Stefan Schweinfest, Director, UNSD. The Meeting heard a welcome address by Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Director-General for Economic and Social Development, FAO.

**Formal Establishment of the Group**

4. UNSD recalled the background for the formal establishment of this group, introduced the document entitled "Draft terms of reference" (prepared by UNSD and FAO) and the new website for this group hosted by UNSD. The discussion focused on the working methods of the Group as presented in the document and how the terms of reference need to be amended by a "mission statement" and "key functions".

**5. Conclusions:**

- (1) Members agreed with the working methods as described in the terms of reference
- (2) Members agreed that a chapeau be added to the draft terms of reference. This chapeau could include the following: Key missions, objectives, functions and deliverables of the Group. Members are invited to send their concrete proposals for key functions and deliverables shortly after this meeting. Based on these submissions, UNSD will draft such a chapeau and either finalize it in a written procedure with the Group or during the next meeting.
- (3) Members agreed that it would be beneficial for this Meeting to generally meet before the CCSA meets. The secretariat will take this into account when scheduling future meetings of the Group.

- (4) Members agreed that the new website should be formally linked to the UNSD website but should remain protected.
- (5) Members should submit their comments on the draft minutes of the March meeting as soon as possible after this meeting.

### **Quality assurance frameworks for UN system entities**

6. The topic was introduced by UNSD without documentation. In a tour de table, members shared the status of their quality assurance work. The possibility of a Generic Quality Assurance Framework for the UN (UNGQAF) was discussed.

#### **7. Conclusions:**

- (6) Members with an existing quality assurance framework (or other similar documents) agreed to send their documents to the secretariat for posting on the new website.
- (7) A task team consisting of UNSD, UNIDO, ODC, FAO and OCHA will look into the possibility of creating a UNGQAF. Other members are welcome to join at any stage.
- (8) UNSD will look into the possibility of supporting this work with a consultant.

### **Governance structures of UN system entities**

8. The topic was introduced by UNSD without documentation. During the discussion, members shared their very different governance structures and inherent problems. The benefits and use of an inventory of statistical governance bodies and structures of UN system entities, and of their reporting practices to the UNSC were discussed.

#### **9. Conclusions:**

- (9) Members decided to compile an inventory on governance structures as a first step towards a better mutual understanding. It could also lead to identifying the biggest problems and trying to solve them.
- (10) A task team will work with the secretariat on a short questionnaire. Results of this survey will be considered at the March meeting. Members are welcome to volunteer for this task team.

### **Principles Governing International Statistical Activities**

10. FAO introduced the document entitled “Additional results of the CCSA Survey on the Implementation of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities focusing on UN Organisations” and a short note listing members, for which the chief statistician has in the past endorsed the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities. Based on earlier discussions during the meeting in March 2014 the Meeting

considered the best way to bring the Principles to the attention of the principals/chief executives and initiate their endorsement.

**11. Conclusions:**

- (11) Members agreed on the following procedure: UNSD will draft a letter from USG Wu to the principals of CEB member organizations. UNSD will share a draft of this letter with Members for their comments. UNSD will discuss further with USG Wu whether discussing the topic at a CEB Meeting should be considered.

**Country names**

12. UNSD introduced the document entitled “Official country names and groupings – briefing on the M.49 Classification ‘Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use’”. During the discussion, specific issues and problems with regional groupings were mentioned.

**13. Conclusions:**

- (12) Members agreed to check the country/area listing they use against M.49. Discrepancies should be sent to UNSD and will be discussed at future data managers meetings.
- (13) The topic will remain on this Meeting’s agenda for March 2015.
- (14) UNSD will share the letter it sent to the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) regarding the situation Ukraine/Crimea. UNSD will also share the reply from OLA, once received.

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

14. UNSD introduced the document entitled ”Work on the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda” and a background document “Matching of indicators to OWG Targets from Outcome Document”. UNSD further briefed the Meeting on the formation and terms of reference of the Independent Expert Advisory Group (IEAG).

**15. Conclusions:**

- (15) Members welcomed the briefing on the status of these two distinct processes and welcomed the opportunity to talk to one of the co-chairs of the IEAG, Mr. Enrico Giovannini during the upcoming CCSA Session.

**Other business:**

16. No other business was discussed.

## **Annex I: Agenda**

1. Opening and welcome
2. Formal establishment of the Group
3. Quality assurance frameworks for UN system entities
4. Governance structures of UN system entities
5. Principles Governing International Statistical Activities
6. Country names
7. Update on the Post-2015 Development Agenda / Open Working Group
8. Other business

## **Annex II: List of Documents**

Annotated agenda

Draft TOR

CCSA survey on implementation of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities: Results for the UN organizations and background paper

Note on country names

Work on the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda and background paper

**Annex III: List of Participants** *(In alphabetical order of the organization)*

<b>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</b>	Pietro Gennari Kafkas Caprazli Steve Katz	Pietro.Gennari@fao.org Kafkas.Caprazli@fao.org Steve.katz@fao.org
<b>International Labour Organization (ILO)</b>	Rafael Diez de Medina	diez@ilo.org
<b>International Telecommunication Union (ITU)</b>	Susan Teltscher	Susan.teltscher@itu.int
<b>United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)</b>	Attila Hancioglu	ahancioglu@unicef.org
<b>United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</b>	Steve MacFeely	steve.macfeely@unctad.org
<b>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</b>	Milorad Kovacevic	milorad.kovacevic@undp.org
<b>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)</b>	Joseph Tinfissi Ilboudo	jilboudo@uneca.org
<b>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)</b>	Lidia Bratanova	lidia.bratanova@unece.org
<b>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)</b>	Anisuzzaman Chowdhury	chowdhury4@un.org
<b>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)</b>	Juraj Riecan	riecan@un.org
<b>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</b>	Hendrik van der Pol	h.van-der-pol@uis.unesco.org
<b>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</b>	Tarek Abou Chabake	abouchab@unhcr.org
<b>United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)</b>	Shyam Upadhyaya	s.upadhyaya@unido.org
<b>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)</b>	Javier Teran	teran1@un.org
<b>United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)</b>	Nicolas Fasel	nfasel@ohchr.org
<b>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)</b>	Angela Me Chloe Carpentier	angela.me@unodc.org chloe.carpentier@unodc.org
<b>United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</b>	Michael Herrman	herrman@unfpa.org
<b>United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)</b>	Stefan Schweinfest Sabine Warschburger	schweinfest@un.org warschburger@un.org
<b>World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)</b>	Oliver Herrmann	oherrmann@unwto.org