



GDS/CSIR/Misc/2010/1
(10/145gd)

NOTIFICATION

World Statistics Day

**Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XXVI
Wednesday, 20 October 2010, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

I am pleased to announce that UNCTAD and its partners – the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) – are holding a conference on 20 October 2010 to celebrate World Statistics Day.

Background and purpose of the meeting

Observance of the first-ever World Statistics Day is being organized with the support of partners including the Geneva authorities, the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, and the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. The main objectives of the event are to raise public awareness of official statistics and their values, stimulate dialogue between users and providers of statistics, and advocate visibility and support for statistical projects. The conference, entitled “*Measuring a Globalized World. the Geneva Contribution*”, will discuss the role of statistics in addressing the most urgent issues that shape today’s economic, social and environmental agenda. There will be practical statistical examples that facilitate policy formulation and research in finding solutions to the problems affecting the world today.

The sessions will be led by the chief statisticians of the co-organizers, high-level speakers and invited guests. Participants will have an opportunity to ask statistical practitioners recurrent questions about important statistical issues. A brochure will be prepared, provisionally entitled “*Geneva – Hub of International Statistics*”. The publication will publicize the wide range of statistical activities carried out by the international organizations in Geneva. It will show why statistics are so important and what role they can play in providing a basis for the analysis of critical issues. It will also give a comprehensive inventory of the statistical resources available in Geneva.

Participation

Geneva World Statistics Day will bring together representatives of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations, the Swiss authorities, the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, selected non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, media, data users, economists and statisticians. The intended audience is national and local policymakers, statistical agencies,



experts and the general public. The member States of UNCTAD are urged to transmit information on World Statistics Day to the main stakeholders in their countries. It would in turn be appreciated if the names and titles of the participants could be communicated no later than **6 October 2010**.

Logistics

The meeting will take place at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XXVI. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the six official languages of the United Nations. Upon arrival, participants are requested, before entering the Palais des Nations, to collect their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 Avenue de la Paix. The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 9.30 a.m. in order to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in the E Building (Bâtiment E) of the Palais. Participants are requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card with them. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations, and visitors will therefore be dropped off at the entrance gates. Furthermore, **luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.**

Nominations and enquiries

Nominations and related communications concerning representation at the meeting should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: +41 22 917 0214; e-mail. meetings@unctad.org.

All other enquiries should be addressed to Ms. Ekaterina Chernova, Development Statistics and Information Branch, Office No. E-10103, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, tel.: +41 22 917 5925, fax: +41 22 917 0048, e-mail. wsd@unctad.org; or Severine Genet, tel.: +41 22 917 2142, e-mail: wsd@unctad.org.

All necessary information and related statistical references can be accessed on the designated website, www.unctad.org/wsd, which will be launched shortly.

(signed)

Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

1 September 2010

World Statistics Day

20 October 2010

GENEVA, PALAIS DES NATIONS, Room XXVI

Conference

“Measuring a Globalized World: the Geneva Contribution”

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

- 9.30 – 10.40** **Geneva at the Crossroads of World Statistics**
Session moderator – UNCTAD
- 9.30 – 9.45 Welcome message
- 9.45 – 9.50 Video message from *Mr. Ban-Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General*
- 9.50 – 10.05 Message from Geneva Canton representative
- 10.05 – 10.20 Overview of the statistical activities carried out by international organizations in Geneva
Coordination Mechanisms in the Area of Statistics (*Mr. Henri Laurencin, UNCTAD, co-chair of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities*)
- 10.20 – 10.35 From National to International Statistics (*Swiss Federal Statistical Office*)
- 10.35 – 10.40 Summary by session moderator
- Statistics Facing World Challenges**
- 10.40 – 11.40** **(a) Economic and Social Development**
Session moderator – UNECE
- 10.40 – 10.55 Monitoring a Networked World: the Future Built on Broadband (*Ms. Susan Teltscher, Head, Market Information and Statistics Division, ITU*)
- 10.55 – 11.10 Measuring Trade in the XXI Century (*Mr. Hubert Escaith, Chief Statistician, WTO*)
- 11.10 – 11.25 The Role of Decent Work Statistics in Times of Job Crisis (*Mr. Rafael Diez de Medina, Chief Statistician & Director, Department of Statistics, ILO*)
- 11.25 – 11.40 Questions & answers. Summary by session moderator
- 11.40 – 12.40** **(b) Human Development and Environment**
Session moderator – WIPO
- 11.40 – 11.55 Health and Statistics (*Mr. Colin Mathers, Senior Scientist, Evidence and Information for Policy Cluster, WHO*)
- 11.55 – 12.10 Refugee Statistics – Voice of People without a Voice (*Mr. Jean Francois Durieux, Director, Division of Programme Support and Management, UNHCR*)
- 12.10 – 12.25 Climate Variability, Change and Impacts: Evidence from Statistics and Modelling
(*Mr. Christian Blondin, Senior External Relations Officer; Mr. Omar Baddour, Chief, Data Management Application Division, WMO*)
- 12.25 – 12.40 Questions & answers. Summary by session moderator

12.40 – 12.55 **Statistics in Academia**

Session moderator – UNCTAD

Use, Misuse and No-Use (Mr. Paul H. Dembinski, Director, Observatoire de la Finance)

12.55 – 13.00 **Closing remarks**

(Mr. Henri Laurencin, UNCTAD, co-chair of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities)