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## **Statistical Commission**

### **Thirty-second session**

6-9 March 2001

Item 6 (i) of the provisional agenda\*

**Activities not classified by field: programme  
questions and related matters**

## **Draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2002-2003 and related information**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. The draft programme of work in the field of statistics for the biennium 2002-2003, contained in the annex to the present note, is submitted for the consideration of the Statistical Commission, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/220, section I, paragraph 7, in which the Assembly stressed the role of the relevant intergovernmental bodies in the consideration of the narrative of the proposed programme budget, as well as the necessity for a timely presentation of their recommendations on the budget.
2. The draft programme of work has been formulated within the framework of subprogramme 5 (Statistics) of programme 7 (Economic and social affairs) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.
3. The Commission is invited to comment and make recommendations, as appropriate, on the draft programme of work. These comments and recommendations will be taken into account, as appropriate, by the Secretary-General in finalizing his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, which will be reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

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\* E/CN.3/2001/1.

## Annex

### Draft programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003 for the Statistics Division

#### Programme 28 Economic and social affairs

##### Subprogramme 28.5 Statistics

1. The subprogramme will be carried out by the United Nations Statistics Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
2. The draft programme of work has been formulated within the framework of subprogramme 5 (Statistics) of programme 7 (Economic and social affairs) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

##### Objective(s)

To promote international comparability of statistics through the standardization of statistical methods, classifications and definitions used by national statistical agencies and to reach international agreement on relevant concepts and methods.

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##### Expected accomplishment(s)

Improved methods and procedures for the measurement of economic and social phenomena, including the gender dimension.

##### Indicator(s) of achievement

1. Feedback from participants at workshops and expert group meetings on knowledge gained and improved skills with regard to methods and procedures for the measurement of economic and social phenomena.
2. Usefulness of United Nations statistical publications on methods and procedures, including through feedback from focus and expert groups.

##### Expected accomplishment(s)

Better understanding by national statistical offices of new and critical issues in the field of international trade, national accounts, energy, environment, demographics and social statistics.

##### Indicator(s) of achievement

1. Consideration by the Statistical Commission of new and critical issues in statistics.
2. Usefulness of United Nations statistical publications, including through feedback from focus and expert groups.

<p><b>Expected accomplishment(s)</b></p> <p>Strengthened capacity of national statistical offices in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to produce, analyse and disseminate statistical data.</p>	<p><b>Indicator(s) of achievement</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feedback from participants in workshops and expert group meetings on knowledge gained and improvement of skills needed to produce, analyse and disseminate statistical data.</li> <li>2. Feedback from national statistical offices and/or Governments on the contribution of advisory missions to improving the ability of those offices to produce, analyse and disseminate statistical data.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Expected accomplishment(s)</b></p> <p>Strengthened global statistical system.</p>	<p><b>Indicator(s) of achievement</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of collaborative activities with national statistical offices and regional and international organizations, including activities relating to development indicators, in accordance with the mandate from the Economic and Social Council.</li> <li>2. Number of countries, including non-members of the Statistical Commission, and international agencies participating in the work of the Commission.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Expected accomplishment(s)</b></p> <p>Greater use of geographical information systems for modern surveying and mapping activities at the national and international levels.</p>	<p><b>Indicator(s) of achievement</b></p> <p>Feedback from participants in the regional cartographic conferences for Asia and the Pacific and for the Americas and the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.</p>

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**External factors**

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and accomplishments on the assumption that national statistical offices and/or Governments have sufficient resources and capacity.

In addition, the timeliness of editing, translation and reproduction of publications is crucial to the achievement of the expected accomplishments, and thus achievements are conditional upon the timely provision of these services within the Secretariat.

**Outputs<sup>a</sup>**

1. *Substantive servicing of meetings*

Statistical Commission, thirty-third session (6)

Statistical Commission, thirty-fourth session (6)

Committee on Contributions (2002, 2003) (70)

General Assembly

    Second Committee and Fifth Committee (scale of assessments) (20)

Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (18)

Sixteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (9)

2. *Parliamentary documentation*

Reports to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions

    Population and housing censuses (1)

    National accounts (2)

    International trade statistics (1)

    Environment statistics, indicators and accounting (2)

    International economic and social classifications (1)

    Information technology (e-commerce) (1)

    Dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division (1)

    Methodological work — integrated presentation (1)

    Indicators (2)

    Gender statistics — progress on time-use studies (1)

    Follow-up to resolutions of the Economic and Social Council (2)

    Work of the functional commissions (2)

    Work programme and medium-term plan (2)

    Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions (2)

    Review of existing statistical programmes in relation to United Nations years and special observances (1)

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<sup>a</sup> Total number of outputs, i.e. number of reports, publications, meetings and updates of web sites, shown in parentheses.

Report to the Committee on Contributions

Data and statistical tables for the Committee on Contributions and the Fifth Committee (4)

Report to the Economic and Social Council on indicators (2)

Report on the twenty-first session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (1)

3. *Ad hoc expert groups*

Analysis of operating characteristics of surveys in developing countries, including survey costs, design effects and response rates (1)

Disability statistics (1)

Household, demographic and social surveys (1)

Review of demographic publications and dissemination activities (1)

Review of the *Manual on Environment Statistics and Indicators*, vol. II (1)

International economic and social classifications (1)

Indicators (1)

4. *Recurrent publications*

*Demographic Yearbook*, 2000 and 2001 editions (print) (2)

*Demographic Yearbook*, 2000 and 2001 editions (CD-ROM) (2)

*Population and Vital Statistics Report*, quarterly issues (print and Internet) (16)

*Environment Statistics Newsletter* (print and Internet) (8)

*Compendium of Environment Statistics and Indicators* (1)

*Environmental Country Profiles* (Internet) (1)

*Energy Statistics Yearbook*, 2000 and 2001 editions (print) (2)

*Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles* (print) (1)

*Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook*, 2000 and 2001 editions (print) (2)

*Analysis of National Accounts: Main Aggregates* (print) (2)

*Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics*, 2000 and 2001 editions (print) (2)

*SNA Newsletter: SNA News and Notes* (print and Internet) (8)

*Classification Newsletter* (print and Internet) (12)

*Yearbook of International Trade Statistics*, vols. I and II (print) (2)

*Yearbook of International Trade Statistics* (CD-ROM) (2)

*Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, 12 issues per year (print) (24)

*Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, 12 issues per year (Internet) (24)

*Statistical Yearbook*, 47th issue (print) (1)

*Statistical Yearbook*, 47th issue (CD-ROM) (1)  
*Statistical Yearbook*, 48th issue (print) (1)  
*Statistical Yearbook*, 48th issue (CD-ROM) (1)  
*World Statistics Pocketbook*, Nos. 23 and 24 (print) (2)  
*World Statistics Pocketbook*, Nos. 23 and 24 (Internet) (2)  
UNESIS Common Database, four updates per year (Internet) (8)

5. *Web sites*

United Nations Statistics Division Internet home page, quarterly update (8)  
Social Indicators web site, quarterly updates (8)  
World's Women Statistics and Indicators web site, annual update (2)  
Web site on city groups, annual update (2)  
Web site on methodological work, annual update (2)  
Web site on good practices in official statistics, annual update (2)  
Web site on indicators, annual update (2)  
Web site on classifications, annual update (2)  
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names web site, annual update (2)  
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Newsletter, two issues per year (print and Internet) (8)

6. *Non-recurrent publications*

*Technical Report on the Analysis of Operating Characteristics of Surveys in Developing Countries* (1)  
*Compendium of Basic Indicators* (1)  
*Census and Survey Design for Disability Statistics* (1)  
*Report of the United Nations Conference on Disability Statistics* (1)  
*Compendium and Analysis of Disability Indicators and Statistics* (1)  
*Handbook on the Collection of Data on Fertility and Mortality* (1)  
*Handbook on Household Demographic and Social Surveys* (1)  
*Manual on Environment Statistics and Indicators* (vol. II) (1)  
Training material for the implementation of classifications: International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and Central Product Classification (CPC) (1)  
*Technical Report on Index Numbers of International Trade Statistics* (1)  
Comtrade for Windows, version 4.0 (1)  
Comtrade Database on International Trade Statistics on the Internet (1)

Wistat, version 5 (Internet) (1)

Distat, version 3 (Internet) (1)

Revised software for the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) (Internet) (1)

Central Product Classification (CPC) update (1)

7. *Technical material*

Technical paper on statistical indexes (1)

Training material in support of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) indicator framework: lessons learned (1)

Review of demographic statistics publication and dissemination activities (1)

Evaluation of vital statistical systems and census data (1)

Time spent in paid and unpaid work in developing countries: findings from time-use surveys (1)

Analytic framework for the development of data on women entrepreneurs (1)

Web site on time-use surveys: improving measurement of paid and unpaid work (1)

Concepts, definitions and issues in the compilation of data on ageing (1)

Linkages between environmental accounting and sustainable development indicators (1)

Methodologies for the estimation of environmental pressures on the basis of economic statistics (1)

Database on environment statistics and indicators for data collection, compilation and dissemination (1)

Maintenance of the annotated inventory of conceptual amendments to the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) (editorial changes, clarifications, interpretations and other changes) (1)

Technical report on the user-friendly mapping system (Map Server) (1)

Responses to ad hoc requests from member States and other users for information on internationally recommended concepts and methods, as well as national practices, in the aforementioned fields of statistics

Provision of information on computer tapes, diskettes, CD-ROMs, emails, print-outs and customized formats (2)

Database maintenance, documentation and training in the areas of environment statistics, energy statistics, commodity production statistics, index numbers of industrial production, national accounts, demographic statistics and international merchandise trade statistics (1)

Database technical support for recurrent publication outputs to print (1)

8. *International cooperation, coordination and liaison*

Substantive servicing and participation in meetings

Intergovernmental Working Group on the Advancement of Environment Statistics

Technical subgroup of the Expert Group Meeting on Classification

Voorburg Group on Service Statistics

London Group on Environmental Accounting

Harmonized System Committee of the World Customs Organization

Participation in activities of non-governmental organizations

International Statistical Institute

International Federation of Surveyors

International Cartographic Association

International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

Participation in activities of funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations

Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts

Inter-agency task forces on environmental statistics; statistics of international trade-in-services; international trade and finance statistics

Steering Committee on the Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the Former Soviet Union

Conference of European Statisticians

Conference of African Statisticians

ESCAP Committee of Statistics

ESCWA Committee of Statistics

ECLAC/OAS Committee of Statistics

Coordinating Committee for African Statistical Development

Subgroup of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, Gender and Development

Inter-Agency Census Coordination Committee for Sub-Saharan Africa

Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistical Activities (substantive servicing of the annual meeting)

Administrative Committee on Coordination Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality



9. *Technical cooperation*

Advisory services (upon government request) in statistics and statistical data processing to assist in the enhancement of national capabilities in the statistical offices of developing countries

Training workshops aimed at capacity-building in statistics for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in various areas of statistics, such as environment statistics and indicators, national accounts, population and housing censuses, disability statistics, civil registration and vital statistics, and international merchandise trade statistics

Fellowships, short-term training, study tours and on-the-job training for national statisticians from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to upgrade and strengthen their knowledge and skills in the area of statistics and develop regional and international networks

Provision of technical services to member States and regional and interregional projects and training to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening national capabilities in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics

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