

Statistical Commission
Forty-fifth session
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Programme questions

Background document
Available in English only

Proposed Strategic Framework for the biennium 2016-2017

Prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division

The following is the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 for Subprogramme 5, “Statistics” of programme 7, “Economic and social affairs”. The Commission is invited to review this document and to provide its comments.

The proposed biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-fourth session in June 2014. Its recommendations thereon will be transmitted in the fall of 2014 to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session when it considers the proposed strategic framework of the entire UN Secretariat for the biennium 2016-2017.

Subprogramme 5

Statistics

Objective of the Organization: To advance the global statistical and geospatial information system in order to produce high quality, easily accessible comparable national statistics and geospatial information systems for policymakers and other users at the national and international levels

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
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(a) Strengthened global statistical and geospatial information system, with more active participation by countries and increased collaboration among international organizations, including progress in the harmonization and rationalization of development indicators

(a) (i) Increase in the number of participants from countries and international organizations attending the sessions of the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, high-level forums, workshops, expert group meetings and seminars

Performance measures:

2012-2013: 550 participants

Estimate: 2014-2015: 560 participants

Target 2016-2017: 565 participants

(ii) Increase in the number of collaborative activities carried out with international organizations on the rationalization and harmonization of development indicators

Performance measures:

2012-2013: 11 Collaborative activities

Estimate: 2014-2015: 12 Collaborative activities

Target 2016-2017: 13 Collaborative activities

(b) Better and broader use by Governments, international organizations, research institutes, the private sector and the general public of statistical data and technical guidelines produced by the subprogramme

(b) (i) Increase in the number of requests for statistical data satisfied by the Statistics Division

Performance measures:

(Percentage of increase in requests satisfied)

2012-2013: 3 per cent

Estimate: 2014-2015: 4 per cent

Target 2016-2017: 5 per cent

(ii) Increase in the number of visits to the Statistics Division website

Performance measures:

2012-2013: 13 per cent increase

Estimate: 2014-2015: 14 per cent increase

Target 2016-2017: 2 per cent increase

(c) Strengthened capacity of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to routinely collect, compile, store, analyse and disseminate official statistics and indicators in the economic, social, demographic and environmental fields, to produce high quality data, including data disaggregated by sex, for policymakers and the public in general

(c) (i) Increase in the number of national statistical staff who have been effectively utilizing knowledge and skills acquired at training and capacity development activities delivered by the subprogramme

Performance measures:

(Percentage of participants that utilized knowledge)

2012-2013: 73 per cent

Estimate: 2014-2015: 74 per cent

Target 2016-2017: 75 per cent

(ii) Increase in the number of countries that have received guidelines and capacity development support for developing and implementing sustainable national statistical systems

Performance measures:

2012-2013: Not applicable

Estimate: 2014-2015: 85 countries

Target 2016-2017: 90 countries

External factors

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that national statistical offices will have the necessary national resources and capacity.

Strategy

The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Statistics Division. The strategy will include:

- (a) Expanding the normative role of the subprogramme in the development and enhancement of statistical standards, the collection and dissemination of statistical data by Member States and the coordination of international statistical and geospatial information activities, especially those related to new and emerging policy issues;

- (b) Assisting countries in building and managing sustainable national statistical systems with appropriate governance structures and in utilizing modern data capture, processing and dissemination technologies, in order to enhance the quality of and accessibility to policy-relevant statistical information;
- (c) Developing statistical concepts, definitions, classifications and methods for the collection, compilation, storage, analysis and dissemination of statistics and indicators, for use by statistical authorities at the national level;
- (d) Compiling and disseminating global statistical information in the areas of economic, social, demographic and environment statistics, including data disaggregated by sex, increasingly using modern information and communication technologies to facilitate data exchange and to enhance accessibility to comparable national statistics by policymakers and other national and international users;
- (e) Strengthening national statistical systems of developing countries by disseminating methodological information, conducting training, supporting their participation in the regional and international exchange of experiences and providing other appropriate forms of capacity development support, including technical advisory services;
- (f) Facilitating the coordination of international activities in the area of geospatial information management, in order to share experiences and harmonize tools, promoting the use of mapping and geographical information systems for modern surveying, promoting the harmonization and standardization of geographical names, and facilitating a better integration of statistical and geospatial information;
- (g) Coordinating international statistical activities by cooperating with other international organizations, to enhance the coordinated system of international statistical work, including the development of standards and methods, the provision of technical support services and the dissemination of consistent, high-quality data and indicators; in particular, enhancing coherence in the statistical data work of the entire United Nations system.