

Statistical Commission  
Forty-second session  
22 - 25 February 2011  
Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda

Background document  
Available in English only

**Items for discussion and decision: integrated economic statistics**

**Outcome of the Global Consultation on the  
Draft Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics**

Prepared by the Friends of the Chair on Integrated Economic Statistics

## **Summary outcome of the global consultation**

54 replies were received from 44 countries and 10 international organizations<sup>1</sup> in the Global Consultation on the draft of the Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics conducted in December 2010-January 2011. This rate of response and the composition of respondents, including developing and developed countries, with various economic, institutional and statistical systems, is an indication that a broad group of reviewers showed interest in the draft Guidelines and provided comments. Based on the 54 replies the draft Guidelines were, in general, positively received. Most respondents expressed supportive views, considered the Guidelines a “useful document”, “comprehensive material”, “an excellent manual in many respects” or recommended “full endorsement”.

## **General themes of the comments**

The results of the global consultation indicate that, overall, the Guidelines cover well a broad range of the theoretical and practical aspects and experiences of the integration of economic statistics. The specific comments include useful suggestions for additional aspects and experiences of integration that in the view of the respondents are not yet sufficiently addressed in the Guidelines.

### *Cover difficulties and cost of integration*

The difficulties of transition to integration are considered in several comments an important area that should be further elaborated in the final version of the Guidelines. Respondents suggested that the Guidelines include more practical references to the challenges, problematic issues and cost aspects of the implementation of integrating economic statistics and provide examples to highlight how the common difficulties in the process of integration can be addressed.

### *Add more diverse case studies*

The case studies, in general, were considered valuable and useful practical examples illustrating how different countries attempt integrating economic statistics in the statistical production process. However, constructive comments suggested more diversity in the case studies, to cover themes and broaden their country coverage (developing and smaller countries, countries with decentralized statistical systems).

### *Cover specific case of developing countries*

---

<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan, Aland Islands, Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Belarus, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Hong Kong SAR China, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Niger, Palestine, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Singapore, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, AFRISTAT, Eurostat, Inter-American Statistical Institute, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Monetary Fund, Pan American Health Organization of the World Health Organization, Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, World Tourism Organization

In particular, adding more case studies with the experience of developing countries was considered essential for the final version of the Guidelines. A number of respondents pointed out that additional material could be included in the Guidelines that would focus on the specific case of developing countries to provide examples and solutions for the challenges facing developing countries in the implementation process of integration.

*Include additional themes*

The improvements suggested in the comments included further main themes on which additional text or case study could be developed for the final version of the Guidelines.

The suggested themes, among others, included:

- a) Governance related issues for the national statistical organizations, such as the independency and impartiality of official economic statistics, issues of developing trust;
- b) Labour statistics issues, such as harmonization of employment statistics compiled from establishment survey and household survey;
- c) Price statistics and price index compilation issues and their difficulties in the context of integration;
- d) Time series and time coherence;
- e) Statistical units: add enterprise group, control and consolidation concepts;
- f) Satellite accounts: include e.g. health satellite accounts.

**Friends of the Chair responses:**

The feedback received in the global consultation brought attention to a number of important issues for the improvement of the Guidelines. In order to develop the final version of the Guidelines that incorporate these ideas, the Friends of the Chair would request those countries and organizations that have provided suggestions to provide specific texts that address the suggested themes or case studies, in particular regarding the experience of developing and smaller countries. The Friends of the Chair would like to invite interested countries and organizations that are present at the Statistical Commission meeting to provide such contributions for the final draft of the Guidelines.

Moreover, the Friends of the Chair will conduct another round of thorough editorial review to address repetitions in the text. In addition, the useful editorial comments received regarding inaccuracies, style, references etc. will be incorporated with the objective to finalise the Guidelines by summer 2011.