

Statistical Commission

Thirty-fifth session

2 - 5 March 2004

Item 6 (j) of the provisional agenda

Activities not classified by field: Programme questions

Proposed Strategic Framework for the biennium 2006-2007

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Statistical Commission has before it for its consideration a note by the Secretary-General on the preparation of the Strategic Framework for the period 2006-2007. In this connection, the attention of the Commission is drawn to General Assembly resolution 58/269, in which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare for submission to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a Strategic Framework for the biennium 2006-2007, comprising Part one: Plan outline and Part two: Biennial programme plan, which would replace the current four-year medium-term plan.

2. The attention of the Commission is drawn to rule 104.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

“Rule 104.6: The Secretary-General shall take appropriate measures to submit proposals to the sectoral, functional and regional bodies, to enable them to review the relevant portions of the medium-term plan or its revisions with a view to facilitating their consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the General Assembly.”

3. The Commission is invited to review the proposed biennial programme plan for the subprogramme on statistics contained in the annex to the present note and provide its comments to the Secretary-General. The proposed biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be first submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fourth session. Its recommendations thereon will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session when it considers the proposed Strategic Framework for the biennium 2006-2007. Also included in the annex are the legislative mandates for the subprogramme.

Annex

Proposed biennial programme plan for the biennium 2006-2007

Programme 7: Economic and social affairs

Subprogramme 7.5: Statistics

Objective

1. The objective is to enhance the production by national statistical authorities of high quality, timely, national, official statistics and indicators, using standardized statistical methods, classifications and definitions which promote international comparability, and foster their dissemination in support of national and international policy making and monitoring in general, with particular attention to internationally agreed development goals and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and specifically the Millennium Development Goals.

Strategy

2. The Statistics Division is responsible for the subprogramme. The United Nations is a global centre for developing statistical standards and collecting and disseminating statistical data for use by governments, international organizations, research institutes, the private sector and the general public in national accounts, international trade, industry, energy, demographic, social and environment statistics, coordinating the international statistical system, and contributing to statistical capacity building at the national level, using state-of-the-art technologies, in particular the Internet. The strategy for discharging these responsibilities includes:

- 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;
- cooperating closely with other international organizations active in statistics to further enhance the coordinated system of international statistical work, including for monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and data sharing by testing and utilizing new Internet and information management technologies;
- supporting the work of the United Nations Statistical Commission and other international forums in order to ensure that new and critical statistical development issues are adequately addressed and that the outcomes are disseminated effectively to official statisticians at the national and international levels;
- collecting, processing, standardizing, evaluating and disseminating national accounts, international trade, industry, energy, demographic, social and environment statistics, increasingly using modern information and communication technologies, including the Internet, to facilitate data exchange and to enhance accessibility of comparable national statistics in those fields to policy makers and other users at the national and international levels;

- contributing to statistical capacity building for the routine collection, compilation, storage, analysis and dissemination of statistics and indicators at the national level, in developing countries and countries in transition by disseminating methodological information to those countries, conducting training, stimulating their participation in international exchange of experiences and providing other appropriate forms of technical cooperation, including technical advisory services on request;
- promoting the use of mapping and geographical information systems for modern surveying at the national, regional and local levels.

Expected Accomplishment and Indicator of Achievement

3. The expected accomplishments and their associated indicators of achievement would include:

<i>Expected Accomplishment:</i>	<i>Indicator(s) of Achievements</i>
a) Strengthened capacity of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and countries in transition to routinely collect, compile, store, analyze, and disseminate official statistics and indicators in the economic, social, demographic and environmental fields with improved quality, usefulness and accessibility, including the indicators for follow-up to United Nations conferences and for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Declaration goals and targets.	a)(i) Number of national statistical offices implementing what they learned from workshops and advisory missions. a)(ii) Increase in national data available in the Statistics Division database for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Declaration Goals and targets.
b) A strengthened global statistical system including increased participation by countries and increased collaboration among international organizations including progress in harmonization and rationalization of development indicators.	b)(i) Number of participants from countries and international organizations attending the sessions of the Statistical Commission, workshops, expert group meetings and seminars. b)(ii) Number of collaborative activities carried out with international organizations on the rationalization and harmonization of development indicators.
c) Enhanced capability of national statistical offices to effectively respond to important needs including new and critical issues in statistics.	c)(i) Number of participants from national statistical offices who indicated that their knowledge of new and critical issues had increased as a result of attending workshops and seminars. c)(ii) The number of new and critical issues reviewed and analyzed in reports of the Statistics Division discussed by representatives of national statistical offices in the Statistical Commission, workshops, expert group meetings and seminars.

d) Better and broader use by governments, international organizations, research institutes, the private sector and the general public, of statistical data and technical material produced by the subprogramme.	d)(i) Number of visitors to relevant sections of the Statistics Division website. d)(ii) Number of requests satisfied for statistical data in paper and electronic form.
e) Increased understanding of the use of geographical information systems for modern surveying and mapping activities at the national and local levels.	e) Number of participants at regional cartographic conferences and conferences on geographic names who report that they learned new substantive skills at the conferences.

General Assembly Resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/191	Institutional arrangements to follow-up the Nations Conference on Environment and Development
48/121	World Conference on Human Rights
51/176	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/270 B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United National Conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
58/130	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
58/148	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
58/218	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
58/269	Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1564 (L)	Principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system
1566 (L)	Coordination of work in the field of statistics
1989/3	International economic classifications
1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts
1993/226	Sixth and Seventh United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names
1995/7	2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme
1995/61	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States
1997/221	Fourteenth and Fifteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for Asia and the Pacific
1997/292	Sixth and Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for the Americas

- 1998/7 Importance of population census activities for evaluation of progress in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
- 2000/27 Basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels
- 2003/6 The role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

- 2002/1 Agreed conclusions on strengthening further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role assigned to it in the Charter of the United Nations, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration

Ministerial communiqués of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council

- 2002 The contribution of human resource development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development
