United Nations Statistics Division

1.1 Population and migration

Demographic Yearbook

• Continue to compile and disseminate demographic statistics in the Demographic Yearbook, website and CD-Rom.
• Further develop the storage and retrieval system for maintaining the demographic database.
• The UNSD coordinates the collection of demographic statistics with the WHO, EUROSTAT, ILO and the Economic Commission for Europe in order to minimize the reporting burden on the national statistical services and to provide as wide a range of users as possible with access to demographic statistics shown in international statistical publications including the United Nations Demographic Yearbook.

Migration Statistics

• Finalize technical report on measuring international migration through censuses and sample surveys.
• Develop case study reports on models for estimating migration flows and stock from various sources.
• Conduct training workshop on measuring international migration through population censuses.
• Migrant stock data that were collected through the Demographic Yearbook (DYB) Population Census Questionnaires are now available at the UNSD website.
• Revise the DYB questionnaire for collecting data on international migrant flows and restart the annual data collection thereafter.

1.4 Health

Disability Statistics

Ongoing methodological work:

• Development of methods to improve the collection and compilation of disability statistics through surveys and censuses. In particular, UNSD worked with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics in developing of a small set(s) of general disability measures, suitable for use in censuses. In addition, currently involved in the development of an expanded set of measures suited for use in sample-based national surveys, or other statistical formats. See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/citygroup/washington.htm for more information.

Data collection:

• The questionnaire on Human Functioning and Disability statistics was sent to countries for completion as part of the regular DYB data collection system. The results have since been analysed.
• Disability statistics has been collected on ad hoc basis and stored in the Disability Statistics database version 2 (DISTAT-2). Excerpts from DISTAT-2 were posted on the internet in mid-2001. See: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/disability/ for more information
• Questions on disability, asked in censuses worldwide from 1995 to 2004 have been posted on the UNSD website. See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/disability/disabmethods.aspx

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1.7 Human settlements and housing

Demographic Yearbook

Ongoing work:

• UNSD has developed a new questionnaire on housing statistics. The questionnaire is currently implemented (from the IT side) and will be circulated to countries with other census questionnaires in spring 2009.

1.11 Time use

Time-use statistics

• A Guide to producing statistics on time-use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid work, was published in 2005;
• Time-use statistics website (containing methods, publications and meeting documents) will be updated to include experiences of countries that have recently conducted time-use surveys. See: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/tuse/ ;

• Time-use statistics showing sex differences in the use of time will be compiled in 2009 for dissemination in 2010;
• The detailed structure and explanatory notes for the UN Trial International Classification of Activities for Time-use Statistics (ICATUS) are available for comments on the following web site: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/regcst.asp?Cl=231&Lg=1

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2. Economic Statistics (UN Statistics Division)

2.2 Economic accounts

National Accounts

Ongoing methodological work:

• Updating the 1993 SNA in collaboration with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) and supported by an Advisory Expert Group according to the established work programme for 2003-2009;
• Preparation of SNA data and conceptual assessments and analysis based on the UNSD national accounts database;
• In cooperation with the ISWGNA, ECLAC and INEGI Mexico, UNSD edits, publishes and disseminates worldwide the printed bi-annual ISWGNA newsletter "SNA News and Notes" in four languages. Also the electronic formats of English, French, Russian and Spanish versions are posted on the UNSD website. The newsletter contains information on developments in research issues relevant for the SNA and related international standards; clarifications, interpretations and changes in the SNA; country experiences in the SNA implementation as well as publications, meetings and seminars and other relevant information;
• Serving as a secretariat to the ISWGNA (Eurostat, OECD, IMF, United Nations and World Bank) aiming at the coordination of multilateral efforts to support the implementation of the SNA;
• Provide services to the Committee for Contributions of the United Nations including studying new proposals for the methodology in the scale of assessment, and the actual calculation of the scale of assessment. This also includes the provision of services to the Fifth Committee of the United Nations in respect to the methodology and the scale of assessment;

New methodological work:

• Prepare an update of the handbook on Accounting for production: Sources and methods;
• Prepare a handbook on Financial production, flows and stocks in the SNA (in cooperation with the ECB);
• Coordinate the work on integrated economic statistics;
• Develop long-term research agenda for the SNA in collaboration with the ISWGNA.

2.3 Business statistics

Industrial Statistics

• Further development of the industry statistics web-site;
• Investigation of possibilities of data transfer from EUROSTAT on industrial commodity production statistics to avoid duplications in data collection;
• Revision of the Manual on International Recommendations on Industrial Statistics;
• Revision of the Manual on Index Numbers of Industrial Production;
• UNSD continues the collection, processing and dissemination of global industrial commodity production statistics and maintains the industrial commodity statistics database containing data for about 200 countries and areas and more than 600 commodities. A revised UN List of Industrial products has been developed. Data collection based on this new list is now in progress. Production data is being provided in physical quantities and for the first time in monetary values. First publication on this basis is scheduled for release in 2007. UNSD continues the compilation and publication of index numbers of industrial production;
• UNSD continues compilation and dissemination of Index Numbers of Industrial Production for countries, geographic regions and the world;
• Industrial statistics are published in UNSD's Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook, in the UN Statistical Yearbook and in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics. Industrial Commodity Statistics datasets and the General Industrial Statistics Dataset are available in electronic format;
• Conduct of regional workshop on manufacturing statistics;
• Hosting of an Expert Group meeting on Industrial Statistics.

Distributive Trade Statistics

Priority objectives:

• Implementation of International Recommendations on Distributive Trade Statistics;
• Organizing two workshops on good practices in compilation of Distributive Trade Statistics.

Ongoing and new activities:

• Further development of the UNSD website on distributive trade statistics;
• Data and metadata exchange with OECD and EUROSTAT on distributive trade statistics to avoid duplications in data and metadata collection;
• Drafting of DTS Compilers Manual;
• Compilation of country practices on Distributive Trade Statistics;
• Drafting a handbook on good practices in compilation of distributive trade indices.

2.4.2 Energy

Energy Statistics

UNSD maintains responsibility for the production of global energy statistics data collection as well as the methodological development on energy statistics. UNSD maintains the most comprehensive database of worldwide energy statistics (production, trade, stock changes, bunkers and consumption) covering more than 200 countries and areas and time series from 1950. There is a close cooperation between UNSD and IEA/OECD, reducing the data collection burden. UNSD publishes the Energy Statistics Yearbook and the biennial Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles
UNSD maintains the international standards for energy statistics methodology - the energy statistics manuals are under revision.
UNSD supports regional capacity building through training energy statisticians in developing countries.

Priority objectives:

• Coordination of preparation of draft International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (IRES);
• Preparation of the UN Energy statistics database for on online access;
• Organizing training workshops for developing countries;
• Coordination and harmonization of the development on oil statistics in co-operation with APEC, EUROSTAT, IEA/OECD, OLADE and OPEC.

Ongoing work:

• Preparation of draft outline of IRES; review of inputs and preparation of integrated drafts;
• Conducting a worldwide consultation on scope and content of IRES;
• Development of the UN Energy Statistics Database including review of the existing data series as well as collection, processing and dissemination arrangements for both data and metadata;
• Working on improving transparency of oil statistics in collaboration with other international organizations active in this area (APERC, Eurostat, IAE/OECD, OLADE, OPEC and IEFS);
• Participation in the work of the Oslo group on energy statistics and the Intersecretariat working group on energy statistics;
• Preparation of a report on the current state of the energy statistics programme in the countries based on results of Global Assessment conducted in 2007;
• Supporting regional capacity building through training energy statisticians in developing countries;
• Further development of the energy statistics web-site.

2.4.4 Transport

Ongoing work:

Compilation of statistical series on international maritime transport and registration of new motor vehicles for dissemination in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (MBS) and the MBS Online; compilation of statistical series on civil aviation for dissemination in both the MBS and the UN Statistical Yearbook.

2.6 International trade and balance of payments

International Merchandise Trade

Priority objectives:

• Organisation of the revision of International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions including a worldwide consultation on key issues;
• Further enhancements of the UN Comtrade database;
• Implementation of the 2007 edition of the Harmonized System and SITC, Rev.4.

Ongoing work:

• Organisation of a worldwide consultation on the key issues relevant to IMTS, Rev.2 revision process; done in cooperation with the UN Expert

Group on IMTS and the Interagency Task Force on IMTS;
• Continuation of work on UN COMTRADE to provide more efficient public, governmental and international agency access;
• Coordination of international statistical work in the field of trade statistics (in co-operation with ECE, EUROSTAT, OECD, UNCTAD, FAO and other international organizations);
• UNSD and OECD will continue their cooperative efforts to further improve their data collection and data processing procedures based on the previously adopted common standards;
• Assisting developing countries in the identification of good data compilation practices.

International Trade in Services

Priority objectives:

• Revision of the Manual on Statistic of International Trade in Services (as part of TFSITS);
• Enhancement of the UN database on international trade in services (UN Service Trade);
• Organization of a workshop on statistics of international trade in services for developing and transitional countries.
Ongoing and new activities:
• UNSD will continue to be a member of the Interagency Task-Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services and will contribute to the revision of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services;
• UNSD will continue to publish the Newsletter of the Interagency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services and maintain its website;
• Continuation of data collection activities on a worldwide basis in cooperation with other involved international organizations.

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3. Environment and multi-domain statistics (UN Statistics Division)

3.1 Environment

Environmental Statistics

Overall goal:

Improvement of the coverage, quality, comparability and timeliness of environmental data through:
• Regular revision of the UNSD/UNEP questionnaire;
• Development of methodological manuals for data compilation;
• Providing training and advisory services to countries and regions, and
• Harmonizing international data collection and dissemination efforts through the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (IWG-ENV).

Ongoing work:

• Finalization of the 2008 data collection cycle;
• Finalization of the International Recommendations for Water Statistics;
• Data collection and compilation guidance for water statistics;
• Continuation of a global survey on the state of the art of national environment statistics, focusing on air pollution, GHG emission and climate change statistics;
• Regular publication of the ENVSTAT Newsletter and maintenance of the Environment Statistics website continues;(http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/default.htm)
• Finalization of the revision of the Glossary of Environment Statistics and the publication of the revised Glossary under the aegis of the IWG-ENV;
• Act as Secretariat to the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics;
• Preparation for regional training and capacity building projects with a focus on African countries (with UNEP);
• Workshop on environment statistics for the EECCA and Balkan countries (with ECE);
• Workshop on environment statistics for the Caribbean countries (with CARICOM);
• Expert Group Meeting on Environment Statistics.

Priority objectives:

• Production of international recommendations and data compilation manuals on environment statistics and increased capacity building in countries and regions;
• Firm establishment of the regular collection and dissemination of environment statistics;
• Close collaboration with international and regional organisations to harmonize international data collection and dissemination efforts.

New activities:

• Work on a programme for climate change statistics

Environmental Accounts

On-going methodological work:

• Revision of the SEEA - contribution to the revision process in particular by addressing the issues on the classification of physical flows and waste, the definition and classification of assets, and issues related to energy, air emission and water accounts;
• Finalization of the International Recommendations on Water Statistics;
• Preparation of the System of Environemntal-Economic Accounting for Energy.

New methodological work:

Other activities

• Archive of publications on environmetal-economic accounting, including country practices
• SEEA News and Notes
• Implementation of the SEEA-Water in countries

UNCEEA

• The UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) was established by the UN Statistical Commission at its 36th session in March 2005. A revision of the mandate, governance and programme of work will be discussed by the Statistical Commission at its forty-first session.

Priority objectives:

The programme of work of the Committee encompasses six areas, namely
(a) coordination;
(b) methodological development for normative statistical standards and other research;
(c) development of integrated databases;
(d) implementation of environmental-economic accounting and environment statistics and statistical capacity building;
(e) promotion of environmental-economic accounting and environment statistics;
(f) formulation of a statistical response on emerging policy issues. An elaboration of the Committee's programme of work with outputs and deliverables is presented in a separate document.

On-going methodological work:

• The UNCEEA will submit to the Statistical Commission at its forty-first session a detailed programme of work;
• The main project of the UNCEEA is steering and managing the revision process of the SEEA;
• The Committee, within its mandate, has an umbrella function in coordinating and providing vision, direction and prioritisation to ensure that existing groups work in complementary fashion;
• The Committee has organized during its meetings discussions on different policy themes including climate change, green economy, resource productivity and efficiency, economics of ecosystem services and water communities;
• To share best-practices, a web-based knowledge base platform has been set-up It features events and activities in the field of environmental-economic accounting and a searchable archive of publications.

Meetings:

The UNCEEA meets once a year; the Bureau meets on a regular basis by teleconference.
More information can be found at the UNCEEA website:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/

3.2 Regional and small area statistics

City Statistics

• Dissemination of data on cities population through the website http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/densurb/urban.aspx and through UN Data.

3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues

Poverty Statistics

• UNSD continues its work of reviewing methodologies used by countries in poverty mapping, highlighting good practices.

Social Statistics

• UNSD convened an expert group meeting in September 2008 on the scope and content of social statistics, with the aim of seeking inputs towards an international action plan to improve social statistics. See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/social_stat_2008.htm
• UNSD serves as the secretariat for the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on Statistical Indicators on Violence against Women. The first report will be submitted to the 40th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in February 2009.

Social Indicators

• UNSD maintains a website of Social Indicators which is updated twice a year:
See also: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/poverty/default.htm .

3.3.2 Gender and special population group

Gender Statistics

• Following the recommendations of the 2006 Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), the Division has launched a Global Programme on Gender Statistics to promote advances in gender statistics at the global, regional and national levels through: (1) the strengthening the collaboration among stakeholders, (2) the development and implementation of training activities and (3) the dissemination of selected gender statistics and indicators in key areas of concern. As part of the Programme, the Division, in collaboration with various partners conducted the following activities:
• Inter-regional workshop on the Production of Gender Statistics, held in New Delhi, India, 6-10 August 2007. See: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/India%20Aug07/DOCLIST.htm
• Global Forum on Gender Statistics, held in Rome, Italy, 10-12 December 2007. See: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Gender_Statistics_10Dec07_Rome/default.htm
• Second annual meeting of the IAEG-GS, held in Rome, Italy, 13 December 2007. See: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Gender_Statistics_10Dec07_Rome/default.htm
• Establishment of two advisory groups to provide guidance to UNSD on (1) gender statistics training and curricula development and (2) global gender indicators database.
• Development and launch of Gender Info 2007 -a global database of gender statistics and indicators in key areas of concern. See: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/genderinfo/default.htm
• A survey of gender statistics activities and training needs was conducted in 2008 among National Statistical Offices and relevant organizations at the regional and global levels. The aim was to obtain information in order to better tailor UNSD's upcoming activities within the Global Programme on Gender Statistics. The results of the survey are being processed and analyzed, and a report completed in 2009.
• UNSD continues to disseminate basic gender statistics and indicators through its website: "Statistics and indicators on Women and Men" which is updated semi-annually.
See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/indwm

Planned meetings:

• The second Global Forum on Gender Statistics is being planned for 26-28 January 2009 in Accra, Ghana.
• The third annual meeting of the IAEG-GS is being planned to take place on 29 January 2009 in Accra, Ghana.

3.3.6 Sustainable development

Sustainable development indicators

• UNSD contributes to the methodological development of the CSD indicators of sustainable development and climate change indicators;
• UNSD collaborates with UNEP and other concerned agencies of the UN system, member of the IAEG sub-group on environment indicators, on compiling and reporting sustainable development indicators within the framework of the environment goal and targets of the Millennium Declaration.

3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia

Compendia

• Brings together selected economic, social and environmental data produced by UNSD, other UN offices and agencies, international, national and specialized organizations for dissemination in the Statistical Yearbook (print), Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (print and Internet), World Statistics Pocketbook (print) and UNdata.

Demographic Yearbook

• UNSD will continue to develop a well-structured web-site to disseminate metadata and demographic and social statistics;
• Implement conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting to Review the United Nations Demographic Yearbook system: for details please see http:unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/DYB_1103/docs/no_L4.pdf. See also: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/default.htm; in particular revise questionnaires to lessen response burden.

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4. Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis (UN Statistics Division)

4.1 Metadata

Sources and Definitions

• Continues to develop comprehensive standardized metadata on sources and definitions for the millennium development goals indicators database, to provide user-friendly public and agency access to authoritative metadata on sources and definitions for international statistics.

4.2 Classifications

Harmonization of international economic and social classifications

• To continue the publication of a Classifications Newsletter;
• To continue maintaining the UN Classifications Website and Registry;
• To develop complimentary tools and documentation for the revised classifications, including alphabetical indexes and correspondences to other versions of the classifications as well as to other activity and product classifications such as NACE, CPA, PRODCOM and HS;
• To prepare the Companion Guide to ISIC and CPC;
• To prepare other training materials to facilitate the implementation and use of ISIC and CPC;
• Setup of an open discussion and knowledge forum, supported by members of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications in support of the implementation of ISIC and CPC;
• To maintain the Classifications Hotline which provides assistance to national statistical offices and others with regard to interpretation, structure and use of ISIC, CPC and the Classifications of Expenditure According to Purpose;
• Hosting of an Expert Group meeting on classifications;
• Conduct of two regional workshops to support the ISIC and CPC implementation.

International economic and social classifications

• To continue the publication of a Classifications Newsletter;
• To continue maintaining the UN Classifications Website and Registry;
• To develop complimentary tools and documentation for the revised classifications, including alphabetical indexes and correspondences to other versions of the classifications as well as to other activity and product classifications such as NACE, CPA, PRODCOM and HS;
• To prepare the Companion Guide to ISIC and CPC;
• To prepare other training materials to facilitate the implementation and use of ISIC and CPC;
• Setup of an open discussion forum, supported by members of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications supporting the implementation of the ISIC and CPC;
• Hosting of an Expert Group meeting on classifications;
• Conduct of two regional workshops to support the ISIC and CPC implementation.

4.3.1 Population and housing censuses, registers of population, dwellings and buildings

2010 Programme on Population and Housing Censuses

• Serving as the Secretariat of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, continued to coordinate global and regional activities aimed at achieving the goal of the 2010 World Programme to ensure that all countries and areas conduct a population and housing census at least once in the period 2005-2014.
In general, UNSD will continue updating the 2010 world programme resource center with information about census taking worldwide and technical documentation on census good practices, and prepare e-training materials based on the 2007 -2008 workshops on census cartography and the use of GIS. A free software, CensusInfo, will be developed with DevInfo, to help countries disseminate their census results.

Methodological work:

• Finalized the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Rev. 2 and published it in print form in 2008 and on the web.

• Organized two Expert Group Meetings in New York: the first on Contemporary Practices in Census Mapping and Use of Geographical Information Systems , 29 May- 1 June 2007, and the second on the revision of the Handbook on GIS and Digital Mapping, 7-10 April 2008.
• Organized six sub-regional workshops on census management and mapping with GIS in 2007 and 2008 (2 in Africa, 1 each for the SPC, ESCAP, Caribbean and Latin America regions).
• Organized four regional workshops on data processing (data capture, data editing and quality assurance in 2008 (2 in Africa, 1 each for the ESCWA and ESCAP regions).
• Developed the 2010 Census Knowledge Base - http://unstats.un.org/unsd/censuskb/
• Developed a website for the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme http://unstats.un.org//unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PHC/default.htm
• Finalized the revision of the Handbook on GIS and Digital Mapping. Editing is in progress on the "Handbook on Geospatial Infrastructure in support of census activities".
• Work is in progress on handbooks for census reports and data editing.
• UNSD is finalizing the Handbook on Measuring the Economically Active Population and Related Characteristics in Population Censuses, in collaboration with the ILO, for release in 2009.

4.3.2 Business and agricultural censuses and registers

Economic Censuses and Surveys

Priority objectives:

• Compilation of country practices in economic censuses and surveys; the work will be done in cooperation with UNECE and other regional commissions.

Ongoing work:

• Consultations with developing and transitional countries on economic censuses and surveys in order to begin preparation of a report on good practices in this area.

Statistical Business Register

Priority objectives:

• Compilation of country practices in establishing, maintenance and use statistical business register; the work will be done in cooperation with UNECE and other regional commissions.
Ongoing work:
• Consultations with developing and transitional countries on use of administrative data and on statistical business register in order to begin preparation of a report on good practices in this area.

4.3.3 Household surveys

Guidelines for designing household sample surveys

Methodological work:

A handbook on Designing Household Survey Samples: Practical Guideline is ready for formatting and publication. A hands-on publication, that will assist countries in designing household surveys.

4.3.5 Other administrative and non-survey sources

Civil registration and vital statistics

Ongoing methodological work:

Disseminate widely and systematically the handbook series on the development and maintenance of civil registration and vital statistics systems. The following publications have been issued since 1998:
• Handbook on the collection of Fertility and mortality Data, Sales No. 03.XVII.11, United Nations, New York, 2003;
• Handbook on Training in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, Sales No. E.02.XVII.10, United Nations, New York, 2002;
• Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2, Sales No. E. 01.XVII.10, United Nations, New York, 2001;
• Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Management, Operation and Maintenance, Sales No. E.98.XVII.11, United Nations, New York, 1998;

• Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Preparation of a Legal Framework, Sales No. E. 98.XVII.7, United Nations, New York, 1998;
• Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Developing Information, Education and Communication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.4, United Nations, New York, 1998;
• Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Policies and Protocols for the Release and Archiving of Individual Records, Sales No. E.98.XVII.6, United Nations, New York, 1998;
• Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Computerization, Sales No. E.98.XVII.10, United Nations, New York, 1998.

Priority objectives:

Improve the coverage of vital registration systems and the capacity of countries to provide vital statistics from registration systems.

New activities:

UNSD plans to continue to conduct workshops on vital statistics data collection as an integrated activity of population and housing censuses programme. A knowledge base will be developed to disseminate information on national experiences.

4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing

Dissemination

• Maintains Internet access systems for its databases in international trade and national accounts, to provide more efficient public, governmental and international agency access;
• Maintains processing systems and is preparing Internet access systems for its databases in energy, environment and industrial commodities to provide more efficient public, governmental and international agency access;
• Continuation of work on UNdata under the project "Statistics as a Public Good". Providing free access to UN-System data will result in an increase in the dissemination, use and understanding of global statistics. Enhancement of the data and metadata presentation and the capability to search and browse several databases using one easy-to-use interface in UNdata are some of the features that have been introduced.

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5. Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics (UN Statistics Division)

5.5 Technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing

SDMX

• Collaborates with IMF, Eurostat, BIS, OECD and World Bank on the development of XML data and metadata exchange standards.

5.6 Co-ordination of international statistical work

Secretariat to the UN Statistical Commission and the Committee on Coordination of Statistical Activities

• Coordination of intergovernmental and inter-agency meetings in statistics, serving as secretariat to the UN Statistical Commission and the Committee on Coordination of Statistical Activities. See also: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission.htm and http://unstats.un.org/unsd/workpartner_ccsa.htm

Facilitator of City Groups

• UNSD is facilitating the work of so-called 'city groups', in order to address issues identified by the Statistical Commission as critical problems. UNSD will continue to encourage countries to actively participate in the discussions of the various groups. It will also disseminate information on the groups and their activities widely. Detailed information on the groups and their activities is available at UN Web page. See also: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/citygroup/index.htm

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5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes

Objective

The UN Statistics Division's objective is to support national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and of countries with economies in transition to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for national policymakers and for other users at the national and international levels.

Strategy

To meet the overall objective, UN Statistics Division's capacity building programme consists of providing advisory services, conducting workshops, organizing study tours, and making available statistical toolkits in three subject domains supplemented by activities related to the MDG indicators. These domains are i) national statistical system, ii) population censuses and social statistics, and iii) national accounts, basic economic statistics, environment statistics, and environmental-economic accounting frameworks. The first domain covers activities directly related to the organization of national statistical systems, such as the building of better institutional arrangements, improved legal frameworks, better organizational structure and better management of human resources. The other two subject domains are very broadly defined to cover together most substantive areas in statistics.

Ongoing work

The main task within the domain of population censuses and social statistics currently and for the next two years is to assist Member States in the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses to be undertaken during 2005-2014. The goal of the 2010 World Programme is for all countries and areas to agree on a set of accepted international principles and recommendations governing the conduct of censuses and to disseminate census results in a timely manner. Within the broad domain of national accounts and basic economic statistics, the priorities are i) implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA), ii) implementation of the revised recommendations in areas of industry statistics, international trade statistics, distributive trade statistics, and tourism statistics, and iii) implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).
UNSD also secured donor funding for the improvement of the MDG indicators. Through its regular programme and the donor funded projects UNSD will continue to assist developing countries with capacity development trainings in the areas of MDG indicators, and monitoring of MDGs particularly in view of the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals.