

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
15 March 2012

English only

Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Sixtieth plenary session

Paris, 6-8 June 2012

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda

Planning and reporting on the work of the UNECE Statistics subprogramme**Draft Strategic Framework for the biennium 2014-2015 of
the Statistics subprogramme****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The note provides the Strategic Framework for the biennium 2014-2015 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistics subprogramme. It defines the objective of the subprogramme, expected accomplishments, performance measures, a strategy and external factors as well as the legislative mandates for its work. The Strategic Framework of the Statistics subprogramme has four main areas of work linked to the expected accomplishments:

- Streamlined international statistical work;
- Updated and newly developed standards, methodologies and practices to enhance international comparability of statistics;
- Improved support to the implementation of international standards in official statistics;
- Improved availability in the ECE database of relevant, timely and comparable statistics.

The note is presented to the Conference of European Statisticians for adoption. It was approved by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians.

Objective of the Organization: To improve the quality of official statistics at the national and international levels, and to ensure the coordination of international statistical activities undertaken in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region	
Expected accomplishments of the secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Streamlined international statistical work	<p>(a) (i) Number of international organizations regularly reporting their activities to the Database of International Statistical Activities maintained by UNECE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Performance measures</i></p> <p>2010-2011: 26 organizations Estimate 2012-2013: 27 organizations Target 2014-2015: 27 organizations</p> <p>(ii) Number of statistical areas reviewed in-depth by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Performance measures</i></p> <p>2010-2011: 5 areas Estimate 2012-2013: 5 areas Target 2014-2015: 5 areas</p>
(b) Updated and newly developed standards, methodologies and practices to enhance international comparability of statistics	<p>(b) (i) Number of new or revised international statistical standards and recommendations developed with UNECE contribution</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Performance measures</i></p> <p>2010-2011: 6 new or updated standards/recommendations Estimate 2012-2013: 6 new or updated standards/recommendations Target 2014-2015: 5 new or updated standards/recommendations</p> <p>(ii) Number of statistical areas (according to the Database of International Statistical Activities classification) to which UNECE makes substantive methodological contribution</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Performance measures</i></p> <p>2010-2011: 27 areas Estimate 2012-2013: 27 areas Target 2014-2015: 27 areas</p>

<p>(c) Improved support to the implementation of international standards in official statistics, in particular in UNECE countries with less advanced statistical systems, including on Millennium Development Goals and gender-sensitive indicators</p>	<p>(c) (i) Number of global assessments of national statistical systems, which include an assessment of the compliance with international standards</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Performance measures</i></p> <p>2010-2011: 3 global assessments Estimate 2012-2013: 4 global assessments Target 2014-2015: 4 global assessments</p> <p>(ii) Percentage of national experts that express satisfaction with the relevance and quality of the UNECE advisory services, training courses, and workshops</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Performance measures</i></p> <p>2010-2011: 75 per cent Estimate 2012-2013: 80 per cent Target 2014-2015: 80 per cent</p>
<p>(d) Improved availability in the UNECE database of relevant, timely and comparable statistics, including Millennium Development Goals indicators and gender disaggregated data</p>	<p>(d) (i) Number of statistical data time series available in the UNECE database</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Performance measures</i></p> <p>2010-2011: 150 time series Estimate 2012-2013: 155 time series Target 2014-2015: 160 time series</p> <p>(ii) Percentage of users that express satisfaction with the quality, coverage and timeliness of data contained in the UNECE database</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Performance measures</i></p> <p>2010-2011: 80 per cent Estimate 2012-2013: 80 per cent Target 2014-2015: 80 per cent</p>

I. Strategy

1. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Statistical Division. The subprogramme aims to improve the quality of official statistics for evidence based economic, social and environmental policy making, and for assessing progress towards international development goals.
2. Coordinating international statistical activities in the region will remain a central component of the strategy under the subprogramme. Strong involvement of national statistical organizations in setting the priorities will ensure that the work focuses on issues of current concern for countries. Cooperation with the statistical services of other international organizations will continue in the form of joint meetings and working groups to develop methodologies, standards, recommendations and best practices. The subprogramme will maintain a Database of International Statistical Activities as a tool to support coordination.
3. The subprogramme will focus on a selected number of subject areas, in particular those where UNECE can provide added value and complement the international statistical work. The work will be undertaken in close cooperation with experts from UNECE member countries and international organizations in the form of expert groups that perform specific tasks, within a set timeframe. The work will result in the development of methodological and practical guidelines and leading practices in statistics, including training materials available on the web. Public access to all related documents will ensure transparency and accountability.
4. The subprogramme will provide support to the countries of the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia as well as South-East Europe regarding existing United Nations standards and best practices and their implementation at the national level. To this end, the subprogramme will promote the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and provide advice on institutional frameworks of official statistics, e.g. by conducting global assessments of national statistical systems. The advisory work will be demand-driven focusing on areas where United Nations standards and recommendations exist, such as population censuses, Millennium Development Goals, national accounts, prices, business statistics, gender disaggregated statistics, environmental indicators and streamlining statistical production.
5. The subprogramme will collect and disseminate economic and social data, including on the progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and gender equality. Data will be accessible for the public on the Internet. A quality framework will ensure the relevance, timeliness and user-friendliness of data dissemination. The data will offer insights into national statistics and help to identify priorities for improvement of the quality and comparability of official statistics.

II. External factors

6. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that (a) there is a willingness to cooperate on the part of international statistical organizations, in particular United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, as well as on the part of the national statistical organizations of UNECE member countries, (b) resource constraints would not hamper the participation of national statistical offices in international work nor impede the implementation of the

resulting standards, (c) resources are available in order to provide support for the national statistical organizations of countries with less developed statistical systems, (d) data needed for the UNECE statistical database are made available by the national and international statistical organizations free of charge, and the technological infrastructure is sufficient for databases and web dissemination.

III. Legislative mandates

A. General Assembly resolutions

- 63/155 Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
- 64/132 Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
- 65/170 International migration and development

B. Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 2005/13 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme
- 2006/6 Strengthening statistical capacity
- 1993/5 1993 System of National Accounts

C. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

- C (47) The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the Region of the Economic Commission of Europe
- A (64) The work of the Economic Commission for Europe

D. United Nations Statistical Commission decisions

- 38/111 Statistical capacity-building
- 39/111 Collection and dissemination of statistics
- 39/112 Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata
- 39/114 Development indicators
- 40/105 National accounts (the 2008 System of National Accounts)
- 40/110 Gender statistics (measuring violence against women)
- 41/106 National accounts (regional strategies for implementation)
- 42/102 Gender statistics (gender equality)
- 42/107 Short-term economic indicators
- 42/111 Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics