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**Work Session on Statistical Data Editing**  
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Topic (vi): International collaboration

**Introduction and Presentation from the Network for Industrialization of Editing**

**Abstract**

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1. All the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) in the statistical network are facing similar challenges that have arisen simultaneously from three directions: (a) budget constraints, (b) increasing user demands, both in terms of the scope of the statistical outputs and a greater emphasis on the various quality dimensions such as timeliness, coherence, accuracy etc., and (c) rapid changes in the information-related technologies and data/metadata infrastructure of the global society today.
2. Statistical data editing (SDE) is an area of focus because it is a critical and expensive part of statistical production at all NSIs. For instance, experiences show that typically SDE-related processes command 30% - 40% of the total budget in business statistics. Nevertheless, such processes are indispensable for ensuring the quality of the statistical products.
3. There is thus a need for greater *production efficiency*, and many NSIs have started the transition from numerous stovepipe-like chains of production solutions to corporate-wise standardized systems. Such modernization programs, however, have raised two pressing issues. Firstly, there is the conflict between the resources for continuous production and those for modernization. Secondly, despite the emergence of the likes of GSBPM and SDMX, there is a lack of internationally accepted common references and standards when it comes to the design and implementation of SDE-processes.
4. Stronger international collaboration was recognized as an important measure in dealing with both issues, at a meeting in June, 2010 in Paris by the initiation and leadership of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), with additional participants from Canada (StatCan), New Zealand (SNZ), Norway (SSB), Sweden (SCB) and UK (ONS). An overall vision of *industrialization of statistical production* was forged --- under which editing was chosen as one of the areas for advancing.
5. In the spirit of industrialization, it seems natural that international collaboration on editing should focus, at an initial stage, on the development and acknowledgement of the following issues:
  - common references for SDE at the conceptual level
  - overall objectives, principles and guidelines of SDE
  - overall design of generic functionality required for the implementation
  - minimum set of standard statistical methods
  - repository of IT tools and, possibly, conceptual modelling of IT-platform(s)

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