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The outcomes of the thirty-eighth session of the UN SC: the regional implications

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General remarks (1)



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- 27 February – 2 March 2007, marked the sixtieth anniversary of the Commission
- Primary concern: nationally produced statistics internationally comparable through adoption of conceptual and methodological standards
- In this respect, adoption of two statistical norms:
 1. Principles and Recommendations for PHC, Rev. 2
 2. System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water

General remarks (2)



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- Continued its technical discussions in the areas of *national accounts*, leading up to revised future standards in the field
- Reviewed current activities in the fields of: *education, agriculture, disability, ICT, classifications, management of NSSs, ICP*, and provided guidance for future work in these areas
- Recognized the need for continuous improvement of the statistics required to track progress towards the MDGs

General remarks (3)



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- Heads of NSOs again stressed the importance of statistical capacity-building, requesting that all stakeholders, particularly IOs, give due consideration to *ECOSOC resolution 2006/6* on strengthening statistical capacity
- The Commission recognized that *donor coordination* was of importance and should be further enhanced

Population & Housing Census



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- Adoption of Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Rev. 2, and encouragement to begin its implementation
- Request the text to be released in all official UN languages asap
- Request UNSD and other international agencies to increase their technical assistance to NSOs in order to strengthen national capacity for its implementation
- Appreciation of support being given to countries to implement the 2010 WP by the United Nations Population Fund, the WHO and the ISCCIS

National Accounts (1)



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- Adoption of recommendations on the update of SNA 1993 presented by the ISWGNA to the Commission, as set out in the “The full set of consolidated recommendations”, with additional considerations on five issues
- Request to the ISWGNA to submit in 2008 a strategy for the implementation of the SNA, based on regional consultations in 2007, reflecting user perspectives and taking into account the different levels of implementation across countries
- Current update retained the framework of the SNA 1993, encouragement of countries to continue with its implementation

National Accounts (2)



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- ISWGNA to act on the concerns raised by the Commission with regard to supporting countries in establishing a basic data collection strategy for implementation of the SN, integration of the informal sector and capacity-building
- Importance of preparing handbooks and manuals with implementation guidance and to enhance capacity-building through training and technical assistance
- Proposal by the ISWGNA to present to the Commission the draft of the update of the SNA 1993 in 2 volumes:
 - Vol. 1, in 2008, with framework in terms of accounting conventions, the accounts, and the integration of the accounts and incorporating the adopted recommendations on the 44 issues;
 - Vol. 2, in 2009, with interpretations of the accounts and extensions such as satellite accounts

Classifications, ICT and Industry (1)



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- Agreement with the implementation process for the ISIC Rev. 4 and CPC Ver. 2, as outlined in the report of the SG, especially with regard to the development of user guides and correspondence tables and the provision of technical assistance to countries
- Request the timetable presented in the report be reviewed, recognizing at the same time the need for flexibility and the wish to advance the suggested implementation target dates
- Request correspondence tables between the revised classifications and previous versions be made available asap, and encouraged countries to share experiences in the implementation of the revised classifications

Classifications, ICT and Industry (2)



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- Agreement on the draft structure of the ISCO as a suitable standard for internationally comparable statistics
- Note of the forthcoming steps to be taken in the formal process to approve the ISCO, and requested the ILO to report back to the Commission in 2008
- Endorsement of a core list of ICT indicators as contained in the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development
- Information on work for drafting the IRIS Manual and the Manual of Index Numbers of Industrial Production

Capacity-building (1)



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- Agreement on strengthening national capacity in statistics and recommendations on future steps
- Donor coordination is of importance, coordination should be further enhanced by making full use of mechanisms already in place to coordinate international assistance initiatives
- CCSA and PARIS21 should examine whether a new mechanism was required to further enhance coordination in order to gain maximum effectiveness and advocacy for government funding of statistics
- Capacity-building of IAs at the country level should be demand-driven. Assistance should have a long-term perspective to produce necessary data in a sustainable way rather than an ad-hoc approach limited to short-term solutions

Capacity-building (2)



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- All stakeholders, particularly IOs, should give due consideration to ECOSOC resolution 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity
- Urgency to assist countries in establishing a mechanism for coordination within the NSS and requested UNSD to propose guidelines for improved coordination
- Important ongoing initiatives of the UNSD, Regional Commissions and other international agencies to achieve greater coordination in operational activities at the country level

Development Indicators (1)



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- Focus on work carried out by the IAEG on MDG Indicators, and on improvements made with respect to the MDG indicators website and database, including their presentation and structure
- Need for continuous improvement in the statistics needed to track progress towards the MDGs
- Need to regionalize some of the global activities so that countries could share their experiences at the regional level

Development Indicators (2)



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- UNSD, Regional Commissions and other international agencies should assist countries in two main areas:
 - enabling them to have the necessary data and methodologies to monitor achievements at the country level towards the MDGs
 - facilitating the development of a coordinated reporting mechanism to provide a consolidated data set to users and international agencies
- Need to improve communication between countries and IAs, as well as within the NSSs, on the compilation of indicators
- IOs to use national statistical data more extensively and produce estimates only when national data are not available
- IAs to ensure that consultation with countries takes place prior to dissemination of international MDG figures, especially with respect to imputations of missing data

Environmental Accounting



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- Adoption of part 1 of the SEEAW as an interim international statistical standard, encouragement of implementation in countries and request its re-evaluated by the Commission at the time the revised “Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental-Economic Accounting” is submitted to SC for adoption as an international statistical standard
- UNSD to develop and submit to the next SC implementation strategy for the SEEAW, considering that countries are at different stages of development of environment statistics and environmental-economic accounting
- Countries and IAs to allocate resources to the revision of the Handbook in their work programme in view of the urgent need for that revision

Inputs for Discussion



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1. General feedbacks on the programme of work, identification of regional priorities, and timetable
2. State of MCs advancement in the above fields, and
3. Fields where capacity-building support from ROs/IOs is more needed
4. Identification of other priorities, with horizontal/vertical statistical content, at the regional level (e.g. measurement of progress, quality assessment, etc.)