

**Report of the 27th Session of the
Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities**

I. Introduction

1. The twenty-seventh session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) was held in New York on 7 March 2016 on the margin of the 47th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The session was chaired by one of the two Co-Chairs of the Committee Mr. Pietro Gennari, Chief Statistician and Director, Statistics Division, of FAO in absence of the second co-chair, Ms. Martine Durand, Chief Statistician and Director, OECD Statistics Directorate, who participated by phone. The agenda, documents presented and the list of participants of the present session are attached as Annexes I, II and III, respectively.

II. Work of the CCSA Session

A. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

2. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda, deleting the item “Other business” (see Annex I).

B. Indicator framework for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

3. The Committee received an oral update by UNSD on the SDG indicator framework, which will be considered by the Statistical Commission this week.

Conclusions

4. The Committee thanked UNSD for the briefing. It pointed to the strong contribution of CSSA members to the work of the IAEG-SDGs and reiterated its readiness to play an active role as observers in the deliberations of the High Level Group as agreed by the Commission at its 46th session. Against this background, the Committee decided to go ahead with submitting joint statements on the “Report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals” and the “Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building” (see also section C) at the UNSC.

C. Preparation of the 47th Session of the UN Statistical Commission

5. The Committee decided at its 26th Session to work on joint statements for the 47th session of the Statistical Commission for the following agenda items and subsequently identified lead organizations and contributors for each as follows:

- item 3 (a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Document E/CN.3/2016/2 Report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals (Lead agency: FAO, in cooperation with AfDB and UNEP)

- item 3 (a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Document E/CN.3/2016/3 Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building (Lead agency: UNSD, in cooperation with AfDB, UNEP and UNHABITAT)

- item 3 (c) Big data for official statistics; Document E/CN.3/2016/6 Report of the Global Working Group of Big Data for Official Statistics (Lead agency: ITU and Eurostat, in cooperation with AfDB and UNEP)

6. The lead agencies with other volunteer organizations prepared the three drafts for joint CCSA statements contained in SA/2016/2.

Conclusions

7. CCSA agreed that the Co-Chairs will deliver all joint statements on behalf of the CCSA as planned. The standard introduction for the joint statements was amended. The Co-Chair (FAO) was mandated to finalise the three joint statements in line with the discussions and to distribute them to the CCSA in the afternoon of the same day for comments. The final version of the three statements, which reflected the comments received, are contained in annex iv.

D. Principles Governing International Statistical Activities

8. FAO and UNWTO introduced document SA/2016/3 containing a final draft for the revision of the good practices that accompany the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities.

Conclusions

9. The Committee agreed in principle to adopt the document but also decided to allow for one more round of comments by 31 March 2016. FAO and UNWTO, with the help of the secretariat, will then finalize the document and update the good practices, which will be posted on the website.

E. CCSA multi-year programme

10. The Chair introduced the draft questionnaire contained in SA/2016/3 and invited comments. It was agreed to add “Cost structures of statistical outputs” to the list of proposed topics following the discussion under agenda item 7 (see section G. para. 15). It was also proposed to ask for an indication whether an activity should be carried out as a one-off event or over several sessions with a well-defined output such as a set of guidelines or a publication.

Conclusions

11. The Committee endorsed the questionnaire as amended and requested the Co-Chairs to implement the survey before the summer, so the final results can be discussed at the CCSA meeting in September in Paris.

F. CCSA terms of reference

12. The Chair introduced the agenda item stressing that in light of the growing number of CCSA members, there was an increasing need for effective coordination in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The Committee, which was established in 2002, last reviewed its terms of reference in 2008.

Conclusions

13. The Committee agreed to form a Task Team to reflect upon the main goals of the Committee. Task Team members should be representative of the current membership, i.e. longstanding and new members; UN and non-UN organizations. Members were invited to express their interest in participating in the Task Team. The Task Team will complete its report before the summer. Based upon the Task Team's report, the Co-Chairs will make suggestions on how to amend the Committee's terms of reference at the September CSSA meeting in Paris.

G. Cost structures of statistical outputs

14. Eurostat presented its current work on measuring/estimating the costs of statistical production. During the discussion various members shared their experience in the area of cost-benefit analysis of producing official statistics.

Conclusions

15. The Committee thanked Eurostat for the very relevant and interesting presentation and invited Eurostat to present the final results of its work in due course. The Committee also decided to include the topic in its survey for the multi-year programme (see item E).

H. Use of non-official data

16. The ECB introduced the proposed CCSA publication on the use of non-official data (SA/2016/6) which was developed as a follow up to the Q2014 and invited members to submit additional contributions by the end of April.

Conclusions

17. The Committee welcomed the initiative by the ECB and invited the ECB to finalize the publication before the 28th session of the Committee in September 2016.

I. Q2016

18. UNWTO briefed the Committee on the preparations of the CCSA session at the Q2016 to be held in Madrid on 3 June 2016. The session was accepted by the organizers and scheduled for

3 June. UNWTO indicated that the session was unfortunately only 90min long, so presentations at the session will have to be very brief and focussed.

J. Agenda and dates of the 28th session of the Committee

19. The Committee confirmed that its 28th session will be hosted by OECD in Paris from 29-30 September 2016. Based on the discussion and decisions at the current session, the agenda for the 28th session will include the following items:

- CCSA multi-year programme (survey results); report by the co-chairs
- CCSA terms of reference; report by the co-chairs based on the conclusions of the Task Team.
- Use of non-official data (publication); report by ECB
- Preparation of the 48th session of the UN Statistical Commission
- Any other business

K. Actions to be taken by the Committee

Action	Lead Agency	Participating Agencies	Deadline	Output
1. Preparation of the 47th Session of the UNSC	Co-Chairs	---	7 March 2016	Finalize and deliver joint statements
2. Principles Governing International Statistical Activities	UNWTO, FAO	all	31 March 2016	Final comments by members Publication of final text online
3. CCSA multi-year programme	Co-Chairs	All	Mar – Jun 2016 Sept 2016	Finalize questionnaire Implement survey Report at 28 th session
4. CCSA terms of reference	Co-Chairs	Volunteers	Mar – June 2016 Sept 2016	Form Task team and draft report Report at 28 th session
5. Cost structures of statistical outputs	Co-Chairs	---	Mar – Jun 2016	Include topic in survey (see item 3)
6. Use of non-official data	ECB	---	Mar – Sept 2016	Finalize publication before the 28 th session

Annex I

Agenda

Monday, 7 March 2016

9 am – 11:45 am

1. Welcome and adoption of agenda
2. Indicator framework for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (oral update by UNSD)
3. Preparation of the 47th Session of UNSC
 - Report of the Secretary-General on development indicators (lead agency: FAO)
 - Report of the High Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for post 2015 monitoring (lead agency: UNSD)
 - Report of the Working Group on big data in official statistics (lead agencies: Eurostat, ITU)
4. Principles Governing International Statistical Activities (report by FAO, UNWTO)
5. CCSA multi-year programme (report by co-chairs)
6. CCSA terms of reference (oral update by co-chairs)
7. Cost structures of statistical outputs (Presentation by Eurostat)
8. Use of non-official data (possible publication) (oral update by ECB)
9. Q2016 (oral update by UNWTO)
10. Provisional agenda, dates and venue for the 28th session

Annex II

List of documents

SA/2015/15	Report of the 26th session, Bangkok, 1-2 October 2015
SA/2016/1	Provisional agenda for the 27th session
SA/2016/2	Preparation of the 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission
SA/2016/3	Principles governing international statistical activities with revised good practices
SA/2016/4	CCSA multi-year programme: CCSA member survey
SA/2016/5	Eurostat presentation on cost structures of statistical outputs
SA/2016/6	CCSA publication: Case studies on using non-official statistics in providing comparable international statistics

Annex III

List of Participants
(In alphabetical order of the organization)

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CCSA joint statements for the UNSC – March 2016

Item 3 (a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Document E/CN.3/2016/2 Report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals

“I am providing a joint statement on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), which consists of 45 international and supranational organizations, who have established a long-standing partnership to promote inter-agency coordination and cooperation on statistics.

The Committee:

- WELCOMES and SUPPORTS the report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators;
- COMMENDS the IAEG for the remarkable progress made in less than one year in the development of the global indicator framework;
- SUPPORTS the priorities of the programme of work of the IAEG and REITERATES the commitment of the CCSA members to support the methodological refinement of the global indicator framework;
- RECALLS that the statistical work of CCSA members is guided by the ‘Principles Governing International Statistical Activities’ and that statistical activities within the UN system will also benefit from the forthcoming common quality assurance framework to ensure that their products will meet the highest international standards of data quality and integrity;
- REAFFIRMS that the CCSA and the UN system are ready to play an active role in ensuring a strong coordination across global statistical programmes in the collection, monitoring and reporting of SDG indicators, in order to avoid duplications, minimize response burden on countries and ensure consistency between data disseminated at the national and international level;
- STANDS READY to work closely with the IAEG to identify countries’ needs for statistical capacity development and EXPRESSES the commitment of the CCSA members to provide technical support for the implementation of the approved indicators on the basis of their respective mandates and expertise.”

Item 3 (a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Document E/CN.3/2016/3 Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building

“I am providing a joint statement on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), which consists of 45 international and supranational organizations, who have

established a long-standing partnership to promote inter-agency coordination and cooperation on statistics.

The Committee:

- WELCOMES the report of the High-level Group and SUPPORTS its twin focus on (i) promoting national ownership of the monitoring system for the 2030 Agenda, and (ii) fostering statistical capacity building and coordination.
- WELCOMES the provision for regional and international statistical organizations to play an active role as observers in the deliberations of the group as agreed by the Commission at its 46th session;
- AFFIRMS the availability of the CCSA co-chairs to represent the international statistical organizations in the group;
- STANDS READY to constructively contribute to the development of a global action plan for data that will foster capacity-building, partnership and coordination at all levels.
- HIGHLIGHTS that CCSA members are in an excellent position to support countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, based on their mandate as custodians of internationally-agreed methodological standards and statistical databases in specific domain areas, as well as their ample experience in capacity-building and coordination;
- REITERATES its commitment to work closely with national statistical systems in order to support their efforts to modernize, harmonize and streamline data infrastructures and data flows;
- AGREES that the UN World Data Forum will be an excellent opportunity to further strengthen the collaboration between national and international statistical agencies and to explore innovative ways to engage with existing and new partnerships, including with the academia, the private sector and civil society.”

Item 3 (c) Big data for official statistics; Document E/CN.3/2016/6 Report of the Global Working Group of Big Data for Official Statistics

“I am providing a joint statement on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), which consists of 45 international and supranational organizations, who have established a long-standing partnership to promote inter-agency coordination and cooperation on statistics.

The Committee

- WELCOMES the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for official statistics and ACKNOWLEDGES the progress made so far;
- RECOGNIZES the numerous activities related to Big Data of national and international statistical agencies and ENCOURAGES the Global Working Group to maintain the inventory of Big Data projects;

- HIGHLIGHTS the role of big data in the modernization of official statistics and ENCOURAGES the Group to further explore the potential of big data in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals;
- SUPPORTS the priorities of the programme of work of the Global Working Group and ENCOURAGES the Group to intensify its efforts in developing general frameworks for big data and official statistics and in supporting statistical capacity development;
- CALLS FOR a coordinated approach towards establishing partnerships with data providers and the academia;
- STANDS READY to support a close cooperation between national and international statistics agencies in fostering the use of big data at all levels.”