

Final Progress Report - 31.01.2019

Thematic evaluation of the regional commissions (E/AC.51/2017/8)

	Recommendation	Management response	Actions taken by UNECE to close recommendation	OIOS response and implementation date
1	<p>Regional Commissions should develop and implement a strategy to enhance the capacity of Member States for dissemination and use of statistics at the national level, including guidelines and recommendations, taking into account the regional context.</p> <p>Related activities could include: a. promoting the participation of technical ministries or members of other substantive committees in relevant Statistical Committee working groups, task forces, including cross-sectoral capacity building activities bringing together statistics producers and users b. technology workshops that address new and advanced data dissemination methods</p>	<p>We accept this recommendation and would like to inform you that ECE recently finalized and published a document entitled "Recommendations on promoting, measuring and communicating the value of official statistics", which includes eight strategic recommendations for countries.</p>	<p>The UNECE sectoral committee on statistics, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) adopted a strategy for capacity development in UNECE region in June 2018. The strategy emphasizes the importance of capacity development in countries not only in statistical subject-matter areas but also on so-called "soft skills", including statistical dissemination and communication. See: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/2018/CES_10_E_Statistical_capacity_development_strategy.pdf</p> <p>The regular expert meetings on communication of statistics serve as a platform to share experience, learn from each other and build capacity in statistical communication. See: https://statswiki.unece.org/display/DIS/2018+Workshop+on+the+Dissemination+and+Communication+of+Statistics.</p> <p>Representatives of other agencies than the statistical office are often participating in the expert meetings, working groups and Task Forces (some examples include the UNECE Joint Task Force on environmental statistics and indicators - the group is jointly serviced by the UNECE Statistics Division and Environment Division, participants are experts from statistical offices and Ministries of Environment; groups working in the areas of poverty and inequality and on ageing related statistics include members of academia; etc.). In national capacity building workshops often both statistics producers and users are involved (e.g. workshop on statistics for SDGs:12 October 2017, Yerevan, Armenia;</p>	<p>OIOS takes note of the progress made and of the adoption of a strategy for capacity development in the ECE region, which is being provided. It would be useful to obtaining more information on the implementation of the strategy as it gets implemented, so that it can be reported in the context of the triennial review of implementation of recommendations, in about two years. In the meantime, this recommendation will be closed as implemented.</p> <p>Implemented July 2018</p>

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			http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47161 ; workshops on gender statistics: 29-31 May 2018, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48280 ; 29-31 May 2017, Astana, Kazakhstan; http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45135 ; etc.	
2	<p>The regional commissions should develop and implement a strategy to enhance their capacities in support of key statistics, in particular environmental and gender statistics and new statistical areas relating to the Sustainable Development Goals. This strategy should include actions to secure supplementary resources as appropriate and relevant, targeted recruitment of staff with expertise in key statistical areas and temporary recruitment of specialists and regional advisers.</p> <p><u>Indicator of achievement</u>: strategy to support the enhancement of capacities for key statistics is developed.</p>	<p>We accept this recommendation and will prepare a strategy to support the enhancement of capacities for key statistics developed for the ECE region.</p>	<p>1. UNECE is enhancing its capacity to support key statistics within the limits of available regular budget and extra-budgetary resources. When new staff are recruited, utmost care is taken to recruit good specialists with expertise in different statistical subject-matter areas that are required to carry out the Divisions mandated work, including in environment and SDG statistics. The Division is implementing a number of extra-budgetary capacity building projects, including the UN Development Account 10th tranche programme on statistics and data. Temporary recruitments are used to the extent possible within the UN rules for such recruitment.</p> <p>2. In June 2018 the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), the governing body for statistical work at UNECE adopted a Statistical capacity development strategy. The strategy defines the Principles, Priorities and Tools for future capacity development. The strategy was consulted with all member states who endorsed the future priorities as defined in para 15 of the strategy – namely Statistics for SDGs as a first priority, followed by population and gender statistics and environment statistics and environmental accounting. Further the Strategy notes in para 5 that the CES has established a Task Group on Capacity development (co-chaired by Italy and Montenegro) which will be engaged in the implementation of the strategy related to</p>	<p>OIOS takes note of the attached CES approved ECE Statistical capacity development strategy and will review its implementation and potential impact at the time of the triennial review. The recommendation will be closed in our database.</p> <p>Implemented January 2019</p>

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			Statistics for SDGs.	
3	Regional commissions should develop region-specific tools, guidelines, frameworks and templates (taking into consideration the Guidelines by the Partnership in Statistics for the 21st Century - Paris 21), in order to strengthen their support to member countries with development and refinement of their National Statistical Plans and National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, to ensure that they take into account the goals, priorities and needs of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.	We accept this recommendation and will review our existing efforts in this regard to determine where interventions can be delivered on integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into national statistical plans, within existing resources, including in our regular budget for technical cooperation.	<p>UNECE is carrying out global assessments for statistical systems of countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (together with Eurostat and EFTA). The global assessments provide a good basis for the countries to develop national strategies and plans for development of statistics. The results of latest global assessments are available at: http://www.unece.org/statcoop/ga.html. The UNECE Strategy for statistical capacity development is a regional implementation of the Paris21 capacity development 4.0 initiative. It includes a maturity model that countries can use as a template for assessing their capabilities in particular statistical areas and identifying capacity building priorities.</p> <p>UNECE has developed a Road Map on statistics for SDGs that gives guidance to countries how to set up a system of providing statistics for SDGs. The Road Map includes recommendations and tools to support countries in this work - for more information, see: https://statswiki.unece.org/display/SFSDG/Statistics+for+SDGs+Home</p> <p>UNECE is undertaking statistical capacity activities as part of a 2017-2020 programme for the improvement of economic and social statistics in support of the implementation of the 2008 SNA based on extrabudgetary resources. UNECE has developed a regional plan for the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) in countries of East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South East Europe, which follows the global strategy adopted by the UN Statistical Commission. A number of the SDG indicators depend on income, production and</p>	<p>OIOS notes the progress made on the development of global assessments that would enable countries to then develop plans and strategies; the same with regards to the models and templates that countries can use to determine their needs and priorities with regards to capacity building. OIOS also notes the road map ECE developed on Statistics and SDGs which will help MS to guide their efforts at producing statistics that will then support the monitoring of SDGs. OIOS will like to encourage ECE to continue documenting the support it provides to MS in implementing their strategies based on the road map and the use of the other tools so that they can be reported as part of the Triennial review on the implementation of recommendations. OIOS considers this recommendation as implemented.</p> <p>Implemented July 2018</p>

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			consumption which require the availability of suitable and reliable measures of the national accounts.	
4	Regional Commissions should strengthen internal coordination within each regional commission with regard to the production and dissemination of sectoral data, including: a. a clear plan for and regular exchange of information on regional activities in statistics; b. a clear commission-wide biennial plan for data collection aimed at identifying common data sources to avoid duplication; and c. Central data management and monitoring to ensure effective collaboration when updating databases within regional commissions.	We accept this recommendation and will engage in a discussion with other regional commissions to determine an action plan for ECE in line with this recommendation.	<p>1. UNECE Statistical division is maintaining a central database and web interface for all statistical data produced by UNECE (http://w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en). This includes data on economic and social and demographic statistics (provided by the Statistical Division), transport (provided by Transport Division) and timber (provided by Forestry and Timber Section). The Statistical Division collects data through joint questionnaires with Eurostat, OECD and UNSD, or directly from the databases of other international organizations (such as Eurostat and OECD). There is no duplication in data collection in UNECE as each Division is focusing on a different subject area.</p> <p>2. The 11 December 2017, UNECE EXCOM approved the Mandates and Terms of Reference of the Teams of Specialists under the Conference of European Statisticians for the period 2018-2022 (ECE/EX/2017/L.14). For each Team of Specialists, the coordination with other entities is specified under item D Planned activities and outputs. One specific Task Force on exchange and sharing of economic data was created (Annex V). As stated in para. 12: the work will build on existing national and international experience, including the results of related initiatives of UNSD, Eurostat, OECD, World Trade Organization (WTO) and IMF1. The Task Force will ensure coordination with and input to corresponding work undertaken by the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics (ITEGS), the G20 Data Gaps Initiative, Eurostat's Integrated Global Accounts (IGA) –projects, the CES Task Force on Common Elements of</p>	<p>OIOS notes the progress made on the different aspects of this recommendation and will validate and verify the different arrangements implemented by ECE through our triennial review which will be due at the end of 2019.</p> <p>Implemented November 2018</p>

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			Statistical Legislation and the Data Integration Project under the UNECE High-level Group for the modernisation of official statistics.	
5	<p>Coordination between the regional commissions should be further strengthened to share expertise and experience on common thematic priorities, including the possibility of periodic sharing of information and more joint activities, where feasible.</p> <p><u>Indicator of achievement</u>: at least one annual collaboration and sharing initiative is organized between regional commissions per year.</p>	<p>We accept this recommendation and, within the broader cooperation of the regional commissions, will review opportunities for increasing collaboration, within existing resources.</p>	<p>1. UNECE is undertaking joint activities with other regional commissions through the UN Development Account programme, and through regular work wherever relevant. For example, joint work with ESCAP and ECLAC is undertaken on measuring extreme events and disasters. UNECE is participating in the regular teleconferences organized by UNSD to exchange information on the activities of regional commissions.</p> <p>2. The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. General Assembly resolution 67/290 invited the UN regional commissions to contribute to the work of the forum, including through annual regional meetings. During the 2018 HLPF, the session on “Implementing the SDGs: Lessons from the regions” featured the Executive Secretaries of the 5 Regional Commissions, who presented a diversity of regional perspectives, shared examples of best practices and experiences, and provided policy recommendations for action at national, regional and global level. For additional details, please refer to the Annotated Agenda attached.</p> <p>3. Concrete examples of future activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint activities are undertaken mainly with ESCAP because of overlap of 	<p>OIOS takes note of the joining activities undertaken and to be undertaken with ESCAP, ECLAC and other RCs. It will close this recommendation as implemented as well and will again towards the end of 2019 in connection with the OIOS triennial review.</p> <p>Implemented January 2019</p>

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			<p>membership of countries. The following joint activities are planned in 2019 and 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint UNECE/ESCAP Regional event on Energy statistics and accounting in May 2019 • Joint work with ESCAP and ECLAC on advancing the development and implementation of Guidance on statistics for hazardous events and disasters – joint report to UN Statistical Commission in March 2019 and follow-up activities after that • Joint activity of UNECE, ESCWA and ESCAP to produce training material on Communication of gender statistics. The work will be co-lead by UNECE and ECLAC, work will commence in 2019 and continued in 2020. 	