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(Geneva, 10-12 June 2003)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE ECE REGION,
2003/2004 AND 2004/2005: AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Pre-plenary session version)

**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 1
ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES**

Paper prepared by the ECE secretariat

Introduction

1. This document is part of the “Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work” which provides a summary overview of the statistically-related work that international organisations plan to carry out in the next two years that is likely to have an impact on ECE, EU and OECD countries. The Integrated Presentation is presented by work area in six different addenda. The information presented in this addendum refers to work area or “Programme Activity” 1 which is entitled “Organisation and operation of statistical services”, and it is sub-divided into four “programme elements (PE)” or fields of work.
2. The Integrated Presentation is prepared for review at the 10-12 June 2003 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians. The Conference uses it as an aid in carrying out its primary role of coordinating the international statistical work that is planned to be carried out in the next two years which is of relevance to ECE, EU and OECD countries. It is also used by countries to plan their statistical activities and to decide on their participation in different meetings convened by the various international organisations. The information presented in this version of the Integrated Presentation will be amended

after the plenary session, and re-issued as the “post-plenary session” version.

3. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians agreed at its meeting on 13-14 February 2003 that the full version of the Integrated Presentation will be produced and disseminated in future in English only. The reason is that in previous years the translation of the Integrated Presentation into French and Russian was often delayed and not available in time for the CES plenary session in the three ECE official languages. However, the Bureau decided that an excerpt of the Integrated Presentation (totalling about 90 pages) be prepared. This excerpt is translated into French and Russian. The shorter version of the Integrated Presentation is presented in document CES/2003/4. It offers in an integrated unique document general information on the various statistical areas, and includes the following sections: goals, issues and problems, strategic medium-term objectives; expected outcomes in the next two years; attention of the Conference is drawn to; meetings and activities of the CES.

PE 1.1

PE	Heading	Text
1.1	Title	Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work
1.1	Goal	That multilateral statistical work is consistent, coherent and harmonious in regard to its use of classifications and definitions, publications, work programmes and collection of data.
1.1	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Managing multilateral relations between international statistical organizations on matters relating to national statistical offices. ◆ Coordination of multilateral statistical work in conducting global statistical surveys and joint data collection, so that duplication in data collection from member countries is avoided. ◆ Improve efficiency of data collection by the international organisations and decrease reporting burden to member countries. ◆ Improve incoherent definitions of metadata and the dissemination of metadata. ◆ More transparency regarding the methods used by the international organisations for different compilation methods, as well as the various quality assessment procedures ◆ Quality of the statistical work. ◆ Monitor the satisfaction of the users of the Integrated Presentation.
1.1	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Strengthen the work of the Conference so that it could better respond to major changes affecting countries in the ECE region. ◆ Further strengthen the role of the Conference in its Bureau in providing guidance on statistical activities carried out by other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies. ◆ Contribute to improving the coordination in statistics among the organisations within the UN system depending on developments in this direction. Recently a proposal has been developed for new actions related to the coordination of the various statistical activities of the UN organisations.
1.1	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ OECD/EU glossary of meta-data terms. ◆ Possible extension of the Integrated Presentation to cover statistical activities of other UN Regional Commissions.
1.1	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The need for further work on strengthening the coordination of statistical data collection among the various international organisations.
1.1	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ That the Conference approves the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see “Activities of CES” below).
1.1	Rapporteur	ECE
1.1	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ECE-Eurostat-OECD: Numerous meetings of various Inter-secretariat Working Groups.

PE	Heading	Text
1.1	Task Forces engaged in coordination	<p>The UN Statistical Commission has set up inter-secretariat working groups to deal with coordination issues and related matters in the following fields of statistics. (Additional information on the work of these working groups is presented in other parts of the integrated presentation, as indicated.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Task force on national accounts. ◆ Task force on finance statistics. ◆ Task force on international trade statistics. ◆ Task force on services statistics. ◆ Task force on price statistics including the International Comparison Programme. ◆ Task force on environment statistics.
1.1	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Coordinate the production of the integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes involving countries in the ECE region, based on input provided by ECE, Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, the UN specialized agencies, CIS-STAT and others. ◆ Collaborate, with Eurostat, OECD, and others in organizing Inter-secretariat Working Group meetings in individual fields of statistics and in organizing Joint Programme Review meetings periodically to deal with potential problematic issues. ◆ Coordinate the statistical activities carried out by other ECE divisions. <p>Secretariat resources: substantial</p>
1.1	Activities of OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continued cooperation with other international institutions, particularly through the participation in the Joint Programme Review meetings and regular contacts with other major players. ◆ Continued participation in technical meetings organised by other international organisations. ◆ Participation in all the Task Forces listed above and convenor of the Task Force on International Trade in Services. ◆ Convenor of the OECD Task Force on dissemination of statistics (electronic discussion) ◆ Improved co-ordination of OECD statistical activities, an integrated Statistical Programme of Work has been created for the Organisation and will be published in 2003. ◆ Establishment of a joint annual work programme with Eurostat to evaluate the most urgent problems and proposed actions. ◆ Participation in the SDMX project (with IMF, ECB, Eurostat, BIS and the UN Statistical Division) to develop common e-standards for collection and sharing of data and metadata. In this framework, a special project has been developed with Eurostat to develop an international glossary of terms used in the definition of metadata. In addition, the first version of a “corporate data glossary” has been developed using definitions of statistical items, concepts and terminology derived from existing international standards. The current version of the dictionary contains about 5000 items and is available on the Internet. It will be published as a book and an e-book in 2003. The glossary could be shared with other international organisations and become a common tool to integrate databases. ◆ Specific initiatives have been undertaken with Eurostat to improve co-ordination in data collection (in particular in areas such as short-term economic statistics and structural business statistics).

PE	Heading	Text
1.1	Activities of Eurostat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eurostat will continue to participate as an active observer in the various international fora for statistics: the annual United Nations Statistical Commission and the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau. ◆ The main purpose of this participation is to ensure that the European Commission's voice is heard during the process of the setting of global standards in statistics and the management of the global statistical system. ◆ Close links with other international organisations, through the ex-ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the Joint Programme. ◆ Ensure good co-ordination of data collection from Member States and the avoidance of duplication in that area. ◆ More joint data collection activities are foreseen in the coming years. ◆ Co-ordination of relations with other OECD countries (e.g. USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico). <p><u>Priority objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Keep the new improved format of the Integrated Presentation (IP) stable for at least 5 years. ◆ Monitor regularly IP users satisfaction. ◆ Evaluate the new follow-up mechanism of the annual "recommendations of the Conference" and "issues to be brought to the attention of the Conference", that would steer CES members participation.
1.1	Activities of UN Statistics Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development of concepts and methods and improving coordination of programmes of environmental statistics and accounting in cooperation with UNEP, OECD, Eurostat, the World Bank and other international organizations. ◆ Work in the harmonization of international economic and social classifications in cooperation with a broad representation of countries and agencies active in this field. ◆ Serving as a secretariat to the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (Eurostat, OECD, IMF and World Bank) aiming at the coordination of multilateral efforts to support the implementation of the 1993 SNA. ◆ Promotion of multilateral consultations of experts to address critical problems in statistics. In this context UNSD is facilitating the work of so called city-groups i.e. informal consultation groups (see PE 3.99). ◆ Coordination by UNSD of international statistical work in the field of trade statistics (in co-operation with ECE, EUROSTAT, OECD and other international organizations). ◆ Coordination of international indicator activities; preparation of the statistical annex of annual reports to the General Assembly on the monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. In this context UNSD is maintaining a web site on millennium indicators (http://millenniumindicators.un.org). ◆ Coordination of intergovernmental and inter-agency meetings in statistics, serving as secretariat to the UN Statistical Commission and the Committee on Coordination of Statistical Activities.

PE	Heading	Text
1.1	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Convener of the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics. ◆ Chair of the Interagency Task Force on Finance Statistics. ◆ Membership in the interagency task forces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (assumed the rotating Chair after the 2001 Statistical Commission meeting); (ii) Task Force on International Trade Statistics; (iii) Task Force on Environment Statistics; (iv) Task Force on Service Statistics; (v) Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics. ◆ Participation in the management of global statistical system through: (i) the sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission; (ii) the Joint Statistical Meeting; (iii) the work of the UN regional commission's statistical activities, including the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau (as an observer); and (iv) special activities such as the PARIS21 Consortium. ◆ Cooperation with BIS (especially on external debt, international reserves, and banking statistics), EUROSTAT, ECB, and OECD in areas of common concern.
1.1	Activities of World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Attends as an observer: (i) sessions of the UN Statistical Commission; (ii) the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities; (iii) Conference of European Statisticians; (iv) meetings of other UN regional commissions. ◆ Is a member of interagency task forces: (i) Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts; (ii) Intersecretariat working group on price statistics; (iii) Inter-agency task force on Finance Statistics. ◆ Participates in the governing body of the PARIS21 consortium. ◆ Manages a multi-donor Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building. ◆ Cooperates with Eurostat, ECE, OECD in areas of common interest.
1.1	Activities of CIS-STAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ CIS-STAT activities are focused on coordinating statistical work and aligning and harmonising statistical tools with international standards in the areas of the System of National Accounts and economic, demographic and social statistics, and improving methods of processing information from CIS member States. Materials in preparation are discussed by the CIS-STAT Scientific Council, task forces and ad hoc meetings. The most important are discussed by the Board of Directors of CIS countries' statistical services. Once finalised, they are circulated as recommendations to national statistical services. Methodological and statistical materials are published in the statistical bulletin "CIS Statistics" (issued twice a month) and in compilations, reports, yearbooks and press releases. ◆ The CIS-STAT web site (http://www.cisstat.com) provides information about the macroeconomic indicators of CIS countries and also posts CIS-STAT press releases and lists of methodological material produced by the CIS Statistical Committee. ◆ Advisory services are provided by CIS-STAT free of charge.
1.1	Activities of PARIS21	See the activities of PARIS21 described under Programme Element 1.4 of the Integrated Presentation

PE 1.2

1.2	Title	Management and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices
1.2	Goal	That relationships among the top management level of the national statistical offices as well as contact with the management of international statistical organisations be efficient.
1.2	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The role of the different international players, and the different and partial overlap of groups of countries require special attention. ◆ Focus and give priority to some specific topics for a certain period of time. ◆ The conflict between increased demand for statistics and shrinking resources. ◆ Promotion of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and assessment by the CES of whether they should be revised or updated. ◆ The development strategy of national statistical offices. ◆ The overall design and conception of official statistics. ◆ Professional ethics in statistics. ◆ Promoting the spread of "best statistical practices" among ECE countries. ◆ Enhancing the role and policy relevance of statistics at the national and international level.
1.2	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ensure that data collection activities by international organisations are coordinated and monitored. This objective is also relevant for programme element 6.1 Dissemination of data and coordination of international data collection ◆ Review the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics perform benchmark studies ◆ Review the functioning of different meetings and processes of supporting standardisation, methodological development and exchange of best practice ◆ Focus on the relevancy of statistics in relation to policy purposes
1.2	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<p>Regular/ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Proceedings of meetings of Heads of Agencies. ◆ Decisions and guidance from the Conference on the statistical work programmes. Planned by the international organisations ◆ Minutes of the major Bureau meetings and briefing notes of the meetings of the Conference's parent bodies to be available at the plenary session as room documents. ◆ Substantive papers and in-depth reviews prepared for the plenary sessions on development of international statistical standards and methods and their application in statistical practice. <p>Specific outcomes for the next period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Review of the application of the Fundamental Principles in all CES member countries ◆ Find a solution for improved monitoring of international data exchange and document the improved coordination of data collection in specific areas ◆ Review the meetings' structure within the international framework.
1.2	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The enlargement of the European Union and the need for the Conference to evaluate its activities and priorities.
1.2	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ That the Conference approves the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see "Activities of CES" below).
1.2	Rapporteur	Statistics Norway

1.2	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ECE: CES Plenary session (2004) ◆ ECE: CES Plenary session (June 2005) ◆ ECE: Four meetings of the CES Bureau per year ◆ EUROSTAT TF: Financial Partnership with the ESS, once a year (23 May 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT: DGINS Conference, once a year (18-19 September 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: ESS Programming and Co-ordination, once a year in June (24-25 June 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT: 4 SPC meetings per year (13-14 March, 15 May, 17 September, 20 November 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT: CEIES - 1 plenary (21 November 2003), 4 sub-committees (2 meetings each), 3 bureau meetings per year ◆ OECD: Statistical Advisory Group, March 2003 and March 2004 ◆ OECD: High level statistical meeting, June 2003 and 2004
1.2	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Annual meetings of the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians. ◆ Regular meetings of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statistician, acting in its capacity as the Steering Committee of the Conference. <p>Secretariat resources: substantial.</p>
1.2	Activities of OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Review and update of the reporting standards in close consultations with member countries and with respect to future member countries ◆ Assessment of the statistical system of new member countries on the basis of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the established reporting standards. ◆ In 2001 the Organisation launched a statistics reform, which has been considered by the OECD Council one of the priorities for the Organisation in coming years: coherently, several initiatives have been undertaken to improve the efficiency of statistical activities, the internal co-ordination and the co-operation with national statistical authorities. The OECD established the OECD Statistical Advisory Group (SAG). The Group, created on a voluntary basis, is a forum to debate arguments such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the design and the implementation of the OECD statistics reform; ▪ data and metadata collection and dissemination policies to maximise users' satisfaction and to improve the quality and transparency of OECD statistical outputs; ▪ improvement of the capability of OECD to meet emerging users' needs and to increase the international comparability of statistics; ▪ evaluation of initiatives to improve the co-operation with other international and supranational organisations; ▪ preparation of the high-level OECD statistical meeting. ◆ A high level statistical meeting has been scheduled in June 2003 to discuss the overall strategy for OECD statistics. ◆ Implement the "corporate quality framework" to assess and improve the quality of data published by the Organisation.
1.2	Activities of Eurostat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eurostat is undergoing a period of very limited budgetary growth. The main consequence of this is to increase efforts to obtain funding from other services of the Commission to undertake statistical work on their behalf. Owing to current Commission practices it is still not entirely clear until a relatively late stage what funding will become available; thus planning for work is difficult. Eurostat's programming process now specifies what work will not be able to be undertaken and what work is contingent on funding from other sources being made available. ◆ <u>Within Eurostat and the Commission</u>: The resignation of the European Commission early in 1999 and its replacement at the end of the summer was the stimulus for a radical reform of the institution that will last several years. During this time there will be changes to personnel policy and budgetary and financial procedures. ◆ <u>Internal audit</u>: audits of the internal control system and ex-post control. The

		<p>objectives of these audits are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ongoing assessment of the quality of Eurostat's internal control using a risk-based approach; - improving the degree of internal control in Eurostat through its recommendations; - promoting and developing the concept and the components of the internal control throughout Eurostat's units; <p>in such a way as to promote control of Eurostat's processes with regard to implementing Eurostat's strategy and improving its performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>With Eurostat partners outside the institutions</u>: consolidation of the planning cycles for Community work with National systems; full integration of the sectoral discussion fora (working groups, Committees etc.) with the SPC (Statistical Programme Committee) for programme planning and execution; completing the Leadership Groups (LEGs) initiative and proposing the framework for this for the future; establish guidelines for programme and project evaluation and continued work on Cost-benefit analysis. Development of co-operation with regard to training with corresponding departments at the NSIs and at other government departments of Member States. Start rationalising meetings structure (follow-up of TF meetings/SPC recommendations) and improve resultant planning. Continue quality improvements for Member state meetings. ◆ <u>Corporate Planning</u>: follow-up of the adopted Eurostat's revised Corporate Plan 2001-2004 and further development of the Qualistat programme; Support to fully integrated training plan; Process Management methods applied to all critical processes and work on project management; Improving implementation of Unit Development Plans; performance of the EFQM model based on 2001 self-assessment; monitoring and follow-up of office-wide improvement actions; implementation of improvement actions based on results of the analysis of existing sources like quality reports, user surveys or office-wide performance indicators; preparation of the next comprehensive staff opinion survey; rolling reviews in further areas. ◆ <u>Financial and budgetary management</u>: The Commission is changing to a system of strategic programming and activity based budgeting. Together with the effects of the reform process mentioned above, this will have a significant effect on Eurostat's own budgetary procedures. The new Financial Regulation and its Implementing Rules, in force as from 1 January 2003, require considerable changes to be made to internal financial circuits and certain key elements of financial processes. Development and implementation of new grants procedures for partner institutes in Member States. This latter point will be the subject of a meeting with Member States scheduled for May 2003. ◆ <u>Human resources management and development</u>: Co-operation between the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat has been extended to human resource management and development. In autumn 2000 a Task Force Human Resources was set up to examine topics of common interest and concern. To date, three meetings have been held. Central topics of discussion have been the development and improvement of the system of Seconded National Experts and competence-based resource management. In this latter field, attention has focused on the issue of staff recruitment and retention, staff assessment, career development and related topics. The examination of these issues will continue. A subject for future consideration is that of training needs analysis and training provision.
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1.2	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The IMF has developed standards to guide countries in the dissemination of economic and financial data to the public. The Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), the top tier of the IMF's data standards' initiatives, is intended to guide countries that have, or seek access to, international financial markets in the provision of economic and financial data to the public. The General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) seeks to guide all member countries in the dissemination of economic, financial, and socio-demographic data to the public and provides a broad framework for countries seeking improvements in their statistical systems. Both the SDDS and the GDDS are expected broadly to improve the availability of reliable, timely and comprehensive statistics, and the SDDS is specifically targeted at the improved functioning of financial markets by providing the information that market participants need to price risk better. ◆ The Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) provides metadata describing the data dissemination practices of SDDS subscribers and GDDS participants. The DSBB also provides hyperlinks to national websites of SDDS subscribers that contain the actual data disseminated by countries under the SDDS. In addition, summary methodology statements will continue to be added to the DSBB as they become available for posting. As part of the program to enhance the DSBB, work continued on developing an interactive, web-based query facility to provide detailed access and analytical capabilities with key-concept level components of country metadata, as well as an XML language for the open exchange of statistical data and metadata. ◆ The transition period for the International Investment Position data category (SDDS) expired in end-December 2001. The transition period for the new data category on external debt will end in March 2003. A data category for public sector external debt has been added to the GDDS.
1.2	Activities of World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Together with the IMF, the World Bank will continue to work on the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) which provides guidelines to the countries in the dissemination of economic, financial and socio-demographic data to the public and establishes a broad framework for countries seeking improvements in their statistical systems. The World Bank input is developing guidelines for the preparation of metadata covering the following areas: population, education, health, poverty assessment and monitoring. The World Bank, in collaboration with the IMF, has been participating in regional seminars and in preparation of the GDDS metadata for participating countries, as well as providing technical support from headquarters or in the field to staff of member countries participating in the GDDS. ◆ The World Bank has been working with the IMF on the Socio-demographic and Poverty modules of the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) to develop questionnaires for evaluation of the quality of data in the above mentioned areas and will participate in the field missions to test the questionnaires. ◆ In the Russian Federation, the following activities are being financed with the WB loan under the Development of the State Statistical System (STASYS) Project: (i) Restructuring and streamlining of functioning of the federal and regional statistical offices, creation of effective mechanism for inter-agency coordination, formalization of the public relations with the users of statistical products. The implementation is expected to start at the beginning of the year 2003; (ii) Development of regulative and legal documents supporting official statistical activities in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation and recommendations of international organizations. This includes development and trial-testing of the Federal Law "On Statistics", establishing legal foundations for the organization of statistical works, collection of statistical data, specifying the rights, obligations and responsibilities of legal and physical persons and authorities related to the conduct of statistical works, the rules for the development of official statistical methodology.

1.2	Activities of CIS-STAT	Efforts will be concentrated on international cooperation in such important areas as synchronisation of reforms in national statistics, harmonisation of statistical methods and the creation of a Commonwealth-wide information and statistical space. Consensus and exchanges of experience are achieved through ad hoc task forces and meetings on particular fields of statistics, through consultations and through exchanges of information and work plans. Final decisions on the problems are taken by the Board of Directors of CIS countries' statistical services, which meets at least twice a year.
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PE 1.3

1.3	Title	Countries in transition in the ECE region
1.3	Goal	That transition economies have mature, stable and adequate statistical infrastructure suitable for their needs; that they receive advice and assistance from the international statistical community in applying them; and that they adhere to international statistical standards and norms.
1.3	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Transferring knowledge concerning statistical priorities and the creation of solid statistical programmes from market economy countries to transition economies in the ECE region. ◆ The implementation of international standards in transition economies in the ECE region. ◆ Evaluation, by both recipient and donor countries, of the progress that is being made as a result of technical assistance given and received. ◆ For EU Candidate Countries, the objective for Technical Assistance is to comply with <i>acquis communautaire</i>.
1.3	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ensure that activities undertaken by countries and international organisations are carried out in a co-ordinated and efficient manner. ◆ Ensure that the building of sustainable national statistical systems meet national and international needs and priorities. ◆ Adopt statistical legislation in those transition economies where it does not exist yet, including an explicit reference to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. ◆ Periodic review of the technical cooperation activities of international and national organisations in Southeast Europe and the CIS.
1.3	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Strengthen statistical capacity in transition economies. ◆ Availability of comparable statistics in key areas among EU candidate countries.
1.3	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The development of official statistics in Southeast Europe is lagging behind the other transition economies because of economic and social difficulties in their progress towards of a market economy. This calls for a tailored development of statistics in the region supported by a sustained technical assistance by the international organisations active in the region. ◆ The investment needed to achieve successfully the accelerated EU enlargement, which foresees the integration of 10 new Member States in 2004. ◆ Further activities to achieve comparability of CIS statistics with the statistical data of the other countries in the region.
1.3	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ That the Conference approves the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see "Activities of CES" below).
1.3	Rapporteur	ECE
1.3	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Management Group PHARE, once a year (20-21 March 2003)
1.3	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Structuring all programme activities and seminar sessions of the Conference to reflect also the concerns of transition economies. ◆ Assistance and guidance to transition economies, through services provided to these countries by the ECE Regional Adviser on Statistics and through the regular CES meetings programme. ◆ Participation in inter-agency collaborative efforts aimed at assisting transition economies ◆ The ECE Statistical Division is the executing agency for an ECE/UNDP project. The aim of this project is to assist countries in central and eastern Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to improve the statistics they require for

		human development reporting and for social planning and policies generally.
		Secretariat resources: Substantial
1.3	Activities of OECD	<p>Countries covered: Russian Federation, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, FYROM, Croatia, Bosnia, Albania, Yugoslavia.</p> <p>Methods of work: Technical co-operation mainly through regional workshops and training at OECD.</p> <p>Priority areas: national accounts, price statistics and purchasing power parities (PPP), and non-observed economy.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continued work to improve the quality of national accounts through better coverage of the "non-observed economy". ◆ Initiate comparisons for ECP 2005 in FYROM, Croatia, Bosnia, Albania, and Yugoslavia. ◆ Collection of short-term economic statistics on selected non-Member countries for use within OECD and for outside publication. <p>In all these activities there is regular co-ordination with other international organisations.</p>
1.3	Activities of Eurostat	<p>Overall goal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Enlargement is one of the Union's major political priorities. The ESS will make further efforts to back this policy by providing constant support to the candidate countries' NSSs in their preparations and by preparing all the statistical evaluations needed for the political decisions. ◆ Technical co-operation with non-member countries will be organised differently through the new structures that the Commission is setting up in this area. <p><u>Enlargement</u></p> <p>During 2003-2005 work will concentrate on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ integration of a first wave of new member states; ◆ consolidating the collection of harmonised data for negotiations and internal EU purposes; ◆ continuing assistance to candidate countries and new members to improve their statistical systems to meet Community requirements, including early information about any new Community legislation. <p><u>Western Balkans, CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) and Mongolia</u></p> <p>In the context of EU co-operation and development policy, statistical activity in the Western Balkans, the CIS and Mongolia will seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ enable national statistical systems to generate and exchange with the EU reliable and up-to-date statistics required for the relevant Community policies; ◆ help these countries to develop their national statistical infrastructure as appropriate for their policy requirements and bring their national statistical systems into line with EU and international principles, rules and standards. ◆ For those countries being mature a type of anti-chamber for accession shall be started; it is expected that the most advanced countries will approach the EU in the period up to 2005; <p>Ongoing work</p> <p><u>Preparation of enlargement</u></p> <p>Work related to enlargement will be continuing at high speed in 2003-2005 with most negotiations finished; statistics as chapter has been temporarily terminated. The continuing objectives within this environment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provide easy access to the statistical acquis communautaire and its developments and updates to applicant countries; ◆ Examining the compliance of candidate countries with the acquis statistique: this comprises both basic conditions for operating statistics in a democratic market economy and fulfilment of EU regulations on statistics. ◆ Regular provision of reports to the Commission and the Council on the compliance

		<p>of candidate countries in the field of statistics, more detailed reporting in appropriate form to Member States' statistical institutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Support of the enlargement process with statistical data: this activity will be much in demand with first accessions approaching. Eurostat units have an increasing role in data supply.◆ Support and encouragement of candidate countries to provide statistical services to their national political authorities within their countries. This shall also strengthen the organisation and the standing of the statistical system within candidate countries. <p>Statistical co-operation is an ongoing activity, which has to serve the enlargement priorities and integration of the first wave countries. Therefore, strategic programming of co-operation activities and strategic orientation of NSO of candidate countries must be reinforced and oriented towards enlargement.</p> <p>In the year 2003, it is expected that a first group of accession countries have signed an Accession Treaty, which will have large impact on statistical co-operation and plea for enhanced integration into ESS structures.</p> <p>In 2003, the main key areas of statistics in several candidate countries should be fully comparable to those of Member States. Several ongoing national Phare programmes should provide the required financial resources for this.</p> <p>Preparation work for monitoring compliance of candidate countries with the statistical <i>acquis communautaire</i> shall be a routine operation. The maintenance of a monitoring system including an operational database on compliance of different countries will have become a regular operation.</p> <p>It should be noted that pre-accession co-operation with countries not being part of the first wave will have to be enhanced.</p> <p><u>Western Balkans, CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) and Mongolia</u></p> <p>The following objectives will be pursued at the operational and organisational levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ arranging multi-annual planning by the recipient countries in order to co-ordinate the support provided by all donors;◆ establishing a multi-annual Community programme in conjunction with the relevant Commission Directorates-General;◆ establishing a co-ordinated, documented and realistic ongoing annual implementation programme covering all the activities proposed under the statistical system of each recipient country, the resources allocated and the participation of the different partners;◆ co-ordinating the implementation of this programme, ensuring appropriate monitoring and evaluating progress made in each country. <p><u>Western Balkans</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Monitoring the implementation of the first multi-beneficiary programme in the context of CARDS (Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stability). Regional CARDS programme should become operational in 2003, when it now is in the tender phase.◆ National CARDS programmes have started (in Montenegro) or are underway in Croatia, FRY/Serbia, Albania and Kosovo. They aim to build-up coherent systems of national accounts through support for economic, employment, social and price statistics.◆ Promoting co-operation between donor partners in this region. Co-operation between donors is pursued through an annual questionnaire on donor activities addressed to the beneficiaries and the identified donors. Results were reported to the Management Group for Statistical Co-operation in March and the document can be found on the CIRCA web-site. The ambition is to include also questions on the results achieved.◆ Contributing to the introduction of national statistical co-operation programmes.◆ Initiating the regular progress reporting system. Progress measurement was also addressed in the Global Assessment Seminar, 2-3 June 2002 in Dubrovnik. The idea is to start a discussion on how progress measurement could/should be done in the
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		<p>context of the Western Balkan countries. The experience with the compliance database for the candidate countries will be used as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Supporting and monitoring progress towards harmonisation with the acquis in statistics (as foreseen in the SAAs) ◆ The first CARDS Policy Group for statistical co-operation has taken place in Belgrade 14-15 November 2002. Further meetings will be organised in 2003 (Sarajevo) and 2004. <p><u>CIS and Mongolia</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Organise the Tacis High-level seminar and Steering Group. ◆ Publish regular overviews of statistical systems in these countries. ◆ Support the improvement of modern management systems. ◆ Lobby for sufficient budgets. <p><u>Priority objective of the work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p><u>Preparation of enlargement</u></p> <p>Incorporating those areas of statistical indicators of primary importance for the accession negotiations and for the integration of Candidate Countries into the ESS.</p> <p>Long-term objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Differentiate between the various waves of candidate countries and adapt to their needs and status of advancement. ◆ Adoption and implementation of the acquis communautaire. ◆ Integration of the NSIs of candidate countries into the practices and culture of the European Statistical System. ◆ Cope with data supply needed increasingly in the framework of international negotiations on different levels and in various circumstances.
1.3	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<p>Technical assistance program in transition economies on macroeconomic statistics (balance of payments, international investment position, external debt, international reserves, government finance, money and banking statistics, prices, external trade, and quarterly national accounts statistics): (i) two to three week onsite missions; (ii) national and regional seminars, workshops, and training courses (Joint Vienna Institute and the IMF Institute in Washington); (iii) services by resident multi-sector IMF statistical advisors (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine).</p>
1.3	Activities of World Bank	<p>The World Bank provides technical assistance on a country by country basis in the form of loans and grants. The World Bank programs are mostly long term and comprehensive in coverage. The projects are aimed to build capacities of the national statistical systems by improving statistical infrastructure, changing the methods and modes of data collection, processing, transmission, sharing and storing, and to allow the countries to produce economic and social indicators needed for policy and poverty alleviation. The World Bank currently had completed projects in the ECE region in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation, and Ukraine. In collaboration with UNECE a seminar had been organized about "the application of fundamental principles of official statistics in the context of transition" Currently statistical capacity building projects are under implementation in Albania and Kosovo. A regional project covering Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine is about to be completed. New projects in several transitional countries may be commenced during the period between July 2003 and June 2005. There are also plans to launch regional technical assistance activities, financed by the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building.</p>

1.3	Activities of CIS-STAT	<p><u>Ongoing work:</u> The priority areas of CIS-STAT activity are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Encouraging reform of the State statistical machinery in CIS countries as it applies to socio-economic change and the system of accounts and statistics generally accepted in international practice;◆ Coordinating statistical activity and drawing up recommendations to harmonise statistical methods;◆ Multilateral exchanges of statistics and the development of a common information and statistical space. <p><u>New activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ International statistical cooperation with the national statistical services of Commonwealth countries, participation in the work of international statistical organisations and representation of the States of the Commonwealth and their interests on the instructions of statistical bodies;◆ Encouraging the adoption of advanced information technology in State statistical services so as to make them compatible within the Commonwealth and with the rest of the world.
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PE 1.4

1.4	Title	Relations with countries outside the ECE region (inc. countries in the Mediterranean region)
1.4	Goal	That Countries outside the ECE region have mature, stable and adequate statistical infrastructure suitable for their needs and adhere to international standards and norms
1.4	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Measurement and monitoring of poverty. ◆ Measurement and monitoring of human rights and good governance. ◆ Implications and consequences of customs union projects in different economic zones. ◆ Transferring knowledge concerning statistical priorities. ◆ The creation of solid statistical programmes. ◆ The implementation of international standards in countries outside the ECE region. ◆ Provision of guidance to countries outside the ECE region in their efforts to take on the characteristics required of statistical agencies of market economy countries.
1.4	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ensure that activities undertaken by countries and international and supranational organizations are carried out in a coordinated and efficient manner. ◆ Periodic consideration by the Bureau of the Conference and by the CES plenary session of ways in which the statistical experience of ECE member countries could effectively be transferred to and /or used by countries outside the ECE region. ◆ Development with other UN regional commissions of regionally relevant sets of Millennium Development Goals indicators and sustainable development indicators in collaboration with the UN standing committee on economic and social indicators. ◆ Establishment of regional transition tables between the above-mentioned regional sets of indicators and UN-DESA sets of indicators at the world level ◆ Implementation of UN statistical standards in economic, social and environmental areas in ACP and Mediterranean countries.
1.4	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Completion of statistical training for ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) countries (COMSTAT). ◆ Completion of PARSTAT project. ◆ Establishing of an integrated customs and statistical system for foreign trade in ACP countries (COMESA). ◆ Harmonisation of EU-Chinese bilateral trade statistics. ◆ Harmonisation of EU-Indian bilateral trade statistics ◆ Implementation of the Paris 21 statistical capacity building indicators in selected countries from all UN regional commissions, following the experimental work conducted by UNSD in Angola and Bolivia in 2002
1.4	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	Nothing
1.4	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ That the Conference approves the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see "Activities of CES" below).
1.4	Rapporteur	ECE

1.4	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT TF: MEDSTAT, 3 times a year (27-28 January, 3-4 April, 16-17 June 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: MEDSTAT once a year (10-11 March 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT TF: Statistical Co-operation with the Developing Countries, once a year (27-28 October 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: The measurement of Poverty, once a year (15-16 September 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: PARIS21, once a year (1-2 December 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Tacis Steering Group on EU Statistical Co-operation with New Independent States and Mongolia, once a year (22-23 May 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT: Policy group on statistical co-operation with CARDS Countries, once a year (23-24 October 2003) ◆ OECD: PARIS21 – West Africa Regional Workshop II, 2nd Quarter 2003 ◆ OECD: PARIS21 – Central America Regional Workshop, 1st Quarter 2003 ◆ OECD: PARIS21 – South Asia, Regional Workshop, 1st Quarter 2003 ◆ OECD: PARIS21 - Steering Committee Meeting, 2nd quarter 2003. ◆ OECD: PARIS21 - Rural and Agricultural Statistics, Task Team Meeting, 2nd Quarter 2003 ◆ OECD: PARIS21 - Strategic Statistical Development Plan, Task Team Meeting, 2nd Quarter 2003 ◆ OECD: PARIS21 – Caribbean Regional Workshop, 2nd Quarter 2003 ◆ OECD: PARIS21 – Arab States Regional Workshop, 2nd Quarter 2003 ◆ OECD: PARIS21 – East & Central Asia, Regional Workshop, 2nd Quarter 2003 ◆ OECD: PARIS21 – Strategic Statistical Development Plan, Task Team Meeting, 3rd Quarter 2003 ◆ OECD: PARIS21 - Consortium Meeting and Steering Committee Meeting, October 2003 ◆ OECD: PARIS21 - Andean Community, 2nd Regional Workshop, 4th Quarter 2003 ◆ OECD: 4th joint ADB-OECD-ESCAP Workshop on Business Tendency Surveys and Leading Indicators for countries of the ESCAP region, February 2003 ◆ OECD: Workshop on Cyclical Analysis and Leading Indicators for countries of the ECLAC region, December 2003.
1.4	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To transfer useful knowledge and experience acquired in the programme of work of the Conference relevant to the countries outside the ECE region. ◆ To assist Eurostat in a supportive role in activities it carries out in its MEDSTAT project, particularly in the priority area of international migration statistics (see Activities of Eurostat below).
1.4	Activities of OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Technical co-operation with China, countries of South and South East Asia and large economies in Latin America, as well as South Africa in national accounts, measurement of the non-observed economy, business tendency surveys, composite leading indicators and price statistics. (Other OECD activities outside the ECE region are described in programme activities 3, 4 and 5). ◆ Contribution to the international comparison of prices (ICP) programme led off by the World Bank. OECD is active as a contributor to methodology and the drafting of a manual, training for regional coordinators and participant in the ICP board of directors. ◆ The OECD hosts and provides the Secretariat for “PARTnerships In Statistics for development in the 21st Century”. The PARIS21 Consortium was set up as a result of a joint UN, OECD, World Bank, IMF and EC senior expert meeting on statistical capacity building held in November 1999. Statistical organisations world-wide have been invited to join the consortium and to become members of task forces. There are now nearly 1500 members. ◆ The task forces will investigate means of ensuring that policy frameworks, particularly the Poverty Reduction Strategies and United Nations Development

		<p>Assistance Frameworks, are supported by country-owned statistical systems which provide information and indicators to both set and monitor policy. The consortium activities are intended to assist countries to develop a statistical strategy which caters for both the short-term needs of policy frameworks and the longer term objective of building sustainable statistical systems, aided by the development of strategic statistical development plans.</p>
1.4	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall goal</u> Technical co-operation with non-member countries will be organised differently through the new structures that the Commission is setting up in this area. During 2003-2007, the overall objective is to support the EU external relations policies by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ providing statistical technical assistance in order to strengthen statistical capacity in countries benefiting from EU aid; ◆ increasing focus on strengthening the measurement and monitoring of poverty; ◆ developing approaches and methods for the measurement and monitoring of human rights and good governance. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work</u> Methodological work shall refer mainly to poverty indicators and indicators for good governance and human rights. Other activities aim at the development of tools for identification, programming and monitoring of statistical co-operation activities.</p> <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u> <u>Thematic priorities:</u> Special attention will be paid to training activities and institutional measures to strengthen regional statistical systems and their national components, with a view to including all developments in a long-term perspective and maximising their efficiency. Two aspects of co-operation, namely external trade and social statistics, will be given priority. The former seeks to define the terms of a genuine partnership between countries and zones in trade relations and to establish the necessary bases for the evaluation of the implications and consequences of Customs Union projects in different economic zones. The key role assigned to combating and eradicating poverty will be reflected in the accelerated implementation of the framework programme for the measurement of poverty and the impact of EU co-operation projects in this field. Eurostat will continue to support the work of PARIS21, particularly through its task team structure and through contributing to and attending regional workshops. The work undertaken in 2002 on the basis of two seminars on statistics, democracy and human rights will continue. In particular, in this area, in 2003 a pilot project will be launched. At a more technical level, Eurostat will continue the development and maintenance of the software Eurotrace and the software ERETES, the latter which belongs jointly to Eurostat and INSEE. Lastly, Eurostat will continue to contribute its experience and expertise in statistical programmes for the evaluation and monitoring of regional integration. The following work and activities will be undertaken in the different geographical sectors: <i>Mediterranean countries:</i> Implementation of the MEDSTAT regional programme will continue in the following sub-sectors : Transport (MED-Trans); Tourism (MED-Tour); Migration (MED-Migr); Environment (MED-Env); Foreign trade (MED-Comext); National Accounts, including non-observed economy, (MED-NA), Vocational training (MED-training) and Information Systems (MED-Is). All these sub-programmes have been identified jointly with the Mediterranean partners and a specific focus is given to improve the response to user requirements and ensure greater transparency and visibility of programmes. The second phase of the MEDSTAT programme (for which the project document was approved in 2001 and due to start in April 2003) will also include two new sub-programmes in the fields of social (MED-Soc) and agricultural statistics (MED-Agri).</p>

Action will be taken to promote South/South Cupertino, particularly by encouraging a sub-regional approach and the integration of statistical sub-programmes in support of political priorities. Efforts will be made to co-ordinate bilateral and regional programmes with a view to ensuring greater cohesion between activities and with other international organisations (EFTA, PARIS21, IMF and World Bank). The monitoring of bilateral programmes to strengthen the capacity of Mediterranean statistical institutes will be pursued with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the Central Administration for Statistics in Lebanon and the Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics. Reference should also be made to the participation in the economic dialogue in the framework of the implementation of Association Agreements.

ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) countries: Work on programmes/projects which began in 2001 or earlier will continue in the period 2003 – 2005 in accordance with the timetables drawn up by the respective steering committees. In particular, this will involve completion of the PARSTAT (meeting the priority statistical requirements of UEMOA multilateral monitoring) programmes. Projects which will continue to be implemented beyond 2003 include COMESA (establishment of an integrated customs and statistical system for foreign trade), the ECOWAS statistical development programme known as ECOSTAT, which is essentially concerned with the harmonisation of national accounts and consumer price statistics, multilateral surveillance statistics for CEMAC countries, statistical training programmes for the SADC region and East Africa (SADC and EASTP projects), the 'SADC Price' project aimed at the development of comparable SADC consumer price indices, the PALOP project for the improvement of statistical capacity and the adoption of harmonised nomenclatures in Portuguese-speaking African countries, as well as the adoption of the system of national accounts (SNA 93) and harmonised methodologies for business and short-term statistics. National statistical projects are being conducted with Niger, Nigeria and Ivory Coast.

New activities

The evaluation work and identification and feasibility studies conducted in 2001 will probably result in the adoption of financing agreements to be implemented in the following areas in 2002 and 2003:

- ◆ Statistical training : ACP countries
- ◆ Statistical planning: UEMOA and SADC countries
- ◆ Agricultural/food-safety statistics: CILSS/UEMOA countries
- ◆ Foreign-trade statistics: UEMOA countries
- ◆ Poverty statistics: ACP countries and regions.
- ◆ Economic, labour force and environmental statistics: CARICOM

Latin America

Mercosur and Chile Region

The EU-Mercosur statistical co-operation programme, which has been in force since the end of 1998 in parallel with a slightly later similar programme involving Chile is nearly completed, some actions will however overlap to the first semester of 2003. The results of this programme, the overall objective of which was statistical harmonisation between the countries of the region and between Mercosur and the EU, will be analysed and an identification mission to define the contents of a new project will be organised in 2003. The participation of Chile in the new project remains to be clarified.

Andean Community

The signature of a financing agreement for a four-year Statistical Co-operation Programme between the EC and the Secretariat General of the Andean Community was expected at the end of 2002 or early 2003. The formal start of activities is scheduled for the second semester of 2003. The general purpose of this programme will be the harmonisation of regional statistics in targeted priority areas to support the ongoing regional integration of the CAN countries which will result in the creation of a single market in 2005. The main focus of the methodological approach will be the institutional strengthening of the regional statistical system.

International Co-ordination

		<p>Co-ordination with international initiatives in this region will continue. A PARIS21 workshop on Central America is planned for April 2003. It is intended that Eurostat will collaborate both in the workshop and in its follow-up.</p> <p>Asia At a regional level, some statistical co-operation activities could be undertaken with the ASEAN secretariat, especially within the framework of the APRIS programme, launched by DG-Aidco. The participation to PARIS21 regional meetings will also be considered (China, ...).</p> <p><i>Bangladesh</i> The one-year statistical co-operation project with Bangladesh will lead to institutional strengthening and the introduction of a poverty-evaluation system. The project is to be finished next August. If necessary, an addendum will be considered, in order to reach the main objectives.</p> <p><i>China</i> The year 2002 saw the completion of the statistical co-operation programme with China which began at the end of 1998. The main results expected relate to the harmonisation of bilateral foreign-trade statistics, institutional strengthening of the capacity to assess the labour market and the importance of the informal sector. To a certain extent, the adaptation of certain Chinese nomenclatures to international systems has been reached; this should provide an additional instrument of comparison between the Chinese statistical system and international practice.</p> <p><i>India</i> Current preparatory work on the EC-India statistical co-operation programme should allow activities to start in 2003. The main part of the programme will involve a harmonisation exercise on bilateral foreign-trade statistics in line with the priorities set by the Commission.</p> <p><i>Pakistan</i> The administrative situation is fairly similar to that surrounding the Bangladesh project (prices and foreign trade statistics): The completion in 2003 of a statistical co-operation project with Pakistan depends on the expected AIDCO endorsement of the signature of the contract with the chosen contractor following a call for proposals.</p>
1.4	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<p>Technical assistance to member countries in the area of government finance, balance of payments, international investment position, external debt, international reserves, money and banking statistics, international trade, price statistics, and national accounts. Forms of assistance: (i) two to three week onsite missions; (ii) services of resident IMF statistical advisors (funding through IMF's own resources, UNDP, the Administered Account for Selected Fund Activities – Japan, and other possible sources); (iii) seminars, workshops, and training at the IMF Institute, the Joint Vienna Institute, the Singapore-IMF Regional Training Institute, the Joint African Institute (Abidjan), the Regional Training Program in the United Arab Emirates, and in various host countries.</p> <p>Work under the regional GDDS project for Anglophone African countries, which is being implemented with substantial financial support by the U.K. Department for International Development and in close collaboration with the World Bank, will accelerate in 2002 with a metadata workshop scheduled for late February, followed by an extensive program of technical assistance. Also, the IMF Statistics Department chairs a Task Force on Statistical Capacity Building Indicators under the auspices of Paris21.</p>

1.4	Activities of World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ By the end of September 2002, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) had committed more than \$8.7 million for the 36 statistical capacity building projects. This represents just over 52 per cent of the total amount, the remainder coming from a variety of other sources, including implementing agencies' own resources and other donors. Although the proportion of other funding generated in the last 12 months is lower than for the first year, TFSCB has nevertheless proved to be a successful mechanism for generating financial support for statistical activities. In addition, the World Bank has allocated \$1.3 million from its own budget for supervision of projects, and additional \$250,000 for administration of the trust fund and related activities. ◆ The largest number of projects, as well as the greatest proportion of TFSCB finance have been allocated to sub-Saharan Africa. Projects have also been approved for East Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia. As yet no projects have been approved in the Middle East and North Africa, although a project for Tunisia is currently under review. ◆ Approved projects cover a wide range of topics from general support for the development and implementation of statistical development strategies and plans to support for specific subject areas. In addition, the smaller, fast-track projects have been used mainly to support meetings and workshops. ◆ Poverty monitoring and support for statistical development strategies are the two most common themes. There is also some evidence of a broadening of coverage in the projects that have been submitted in the past year. Some topics are noticeably absent, for example, the Trust Fund has not supported any project with specific coverage of health or education statistics. ◆ The Bank will keep supporting technical assistance in statistical capacity building, financed by TFSCB grants and loans, on a country by country basis as well as regional and global basis in the next two years.
1.4	Activities of PARIS21	<p><u>Ongoing methodological work</u></p> <p>PARIS21 has five active task teams that bring together, under a volunteer convenor, professionals interested in particular aspects of statistical capacity building. Task Team members comprise experts from international agencies, donor organisations, and developing and transition economies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The <i>Statistical Capacity Building Indicators</i> task team has developed a set of 34 indicators (16 quantitative and 18 qualitative) collected by means of a questionnaire, to provide a snapshot of a country's statistical capacity. The objective was to develop generic indicators that would be internationally comparable. The questionnaire will be piloted in 2003. ◆ The <i>Strategic Statistical Development Plan</i> task team has identified country experiences, international guidance, and best practices for the formulation of national statistical development plans, making use of existing frameworks such as the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS). The team will provide material on the PARIS21 website (www.paris21.org) to assist countries to take full advantage of the initiatives available. ◆ The <i>Census</i> task team has studied the problems of financing censuses from both developing country and donor perspectives and considered strategies for reducing census costs. Further work will explore opportunities for improving the efficiency of censuses and their contribution to the statistics needed for monitoring PRSPs and the MDGs. ◆ The <i>Rural and Agricultural Statistics</i> task team advocates for greater visibility of Food, Agriculture, and Rural Statistics (FARS) within the overall system of national statistics. The team works on mobilising resources, exchanging innovative experiences and practices, and promoting cost-effective methodologies and stakeholder co-ordination. The team reviewed its work in 2002 and agreed a regional project proposal to attract multi-agency support. The work is expected to concentrate on Africa initially, but plans to extend to other regions at a later date.

- ◆ The *Improved Statistical Support for Monitoring Development Goals* task team will identify, through case studies, the additional actions required to achieve coherence in the statistics for measuring, monitoring, and managing development results by identifying specific gaps in national statistical processes and inconsistencies that may exist between national and international requirements.

Priority objective of the methodological work in the next two years

- ◆ PARIS21 will develop a toolkit for country stakeholder consultations in the area of statistics for results-based management.
- ◆ PARIS21 intends to draft an annual report on the current state of statistics for development throughout the world. It would be addressed to the general public and could include a CD-ROM.

New activities to be undertaken in the next two years

- ◆ Following the film produced by PARIS21 in 2002, further films will be made, using material filmed in workshops and supplemented by interviews with well known political advocates for statistics. PARIS21 will produce a series of films advocating for the importance of statistics in managing development in French and possibly in Arabic, Spanish, and other languages, as demand requires.
- ◆ A new task team was approved by the PARIS21 Steering Committee in October 2002 called “Tools and Methods”. This team will develop and document tools related to the statistics needed for monitoring development policy. The first proposal under this team would be to develop proper methods and tools for assessing multi-dimensional aspects of poverty as well as for measuring progress towards the development goals, such as quality and efficiency of governance and rights-based development. The task team will host a project called “Measuring Democracy, Human Rights, and Good Governance,” to follow through the work of the “Montreux Group on statistics and indicators of human rights.”
- ◆ The Statistical Capacity Building Indicators, collected by means of a questionnaire (see above), has already been tested in two countries and will be piloted fully throughout 2003.

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