

**Joint UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Meeting on Health Statistics**  
(Geneva, 24-26 May 2004)

**INFORMATION NOTICE No. 1**

The meeting will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 24 to 26 May 2004,  
The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, 24 May 2004 and will finish on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

**I. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

The objective of the meeting is to address the measurement of health status from an international perspective. Questions to be addressed are: What indicators and statistics are needed for describing health status in an international context? And what is the best way to produce them? An expected outcome of the meeting are draft regional recommendations for statistics on the measurement of health status, together with a research agenda for operationalization of a survey module to be tested in national survey programmes.

**II. AGENDA OF THE MEETING**

The meeting focuses on the measurement of health status. The work programme of the meeting will consist of the following substantive topics:

- International and regional activities and experiences in measuring health status
- Countries' experiences in measuring health status
- Methodological issues in the measurement and reporting of health status
- Health status indicators
- Implementation and co-ordination of health surveys in the ECE region

Explanatory notes to individual topics on the agenda are provided in section V of this Information Notice. The annotated agenda will be loaded to the meeting website as soon as available.

**III. PARTICIPATION AND ACCREDITATION**

Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organizations are welcome to participate in the meeting. Participants representing non-governmental organizations in a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council may also attend. All participants must be accredited by the competent authorities of their country or international organization. All participants attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of Switzerland in the country in which the participants reside, with a reference to the joint UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Meeting on Health Statistics. If necessary, the UNECE secretariat can provide a letter to facilitate obtaining a visa. This can be requested from the UNECE secretariat (fax: ++41 22 917 0040; e-mail: [mijidgombo.oyunjargal@unece.org](mailto:mijidgombo.oyunjargal@unece.org) )

Representatives from national statistical offices and other government bodies as well as from international organizations who wish to participate should complete the registration form and return it to the UNECE secretariat. The registration form, plan of the UN premises at Geneva, and explanation on how to obtain the ground passes are attached to this Information Notice.

**IV. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

The working language of the meeting is English and translation and interpretation facilities will not be available. Therefore, the documents must be submitted in English only. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- Interested national statistical offices and other government bodies should inform the UNECE secretariat of their intention to attend the meeting and to contribute a paper or make a presentation (indicating the topic) **by 28 February 2004**.

- A short abstract of the paper should also be sent to the UNECE secretariat **by 28 February 2004**.
- The full versions of papers, not exceeding 10 pages, should be sent to the UNECE secretariat **by 8 April 2004**.
- The UNECE secretariat is able to process documents submitted in MS Word and RTF formats. Exceptionally, a PDF file can be accepted, provided the formatting and numbering meets the requirements for this meeting (please contact the UNECE secretariat for further information).

For each substantive item on the agenda, the Organizers will invite 2-3 speakers to write and present an **invited paper**. All other participants are welcome to submit a **supporting paper** for any topic on the agenda. The supporting papers will be distributed to the delegates, and they will be summarized by the discussants.

Invited and supporting papers will be made available on the website of the UNECE secretariat at the following location:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2004.05.health.htm>

Delegates are encouraged to download the papers from the website and bring their own copies to the meeting. Documents posted on the website before the meeting will not be distributed in the conference room.

## **V. EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE AGENDA**

### **(i) Introductory session**

Three keynote speeches will provide short reviews on the measurement of health. Main focus on the overall objectives of the meeting: what do we want to achieve? – Internationally comparable measurement of health. Can we develop a common framework and the building blocks for measuring health to be used in national surveys, and can this be the basis for international comparable data?

- Keynote speech - A national perspective: Jennifer Madans USA
- Keynote speech - international perspective: WHO speaker
- Keynote speech - Regional perspective: Marleen De Smedt, EUROSTAT

### **(ii) International and regional activities in measuring health status**

Purpose of this session is to review the differences and commonalities of approaches used by regional, supranational and international organizations in measuring health – either in primary data collection approaches or in the co-ordination, harmonization and synthesis of independently collected data.

### **(iii) Countries' experiences in measuring health status**

Countries are invited to present their experiences in the implementation of health surveys. How they select content and methods, how they manage the relationship with users, difficulties experienced in the implementation, and what are the lessons learned. Countries will also be invited to express their view on how data should be collected and reported to international organisations.

### **(iv) Methodological issues in the measurement and reporting of health status**

This session will address the major technical issues in the measurement and reporting of health status following on from the review of national and international activities. Major technical issues are to be identified as well as the available or proposed solutions or approaches. This aims at identifying the major unsolved issues which would require research at national or international level.

(v) **Health status indicators**

Having addressed measurement issues in the previous sessions, this session examines what are the “right” and most important indicators and/or summary measures of health status to be reported internationally.

(vi) **Implementation and co-ordination of health surveys in the ECE region**

Objectives of this session are:

- To identify a research agenda for operationalization of a survey module, which addresses the fundamental problems of comparability of self-report health data, and the domains to be included. The module is to be tested in national survey programmes. Can we identify the key elements of a short health module? Are there unsolved problems that need to be addressed? Can we identify a number of countries that are ready to test these questions? What is the role of health examination surveys? What should be done in the area of longitudinal health surveys?
- To discuss the implementation of health surveys as part of official statistics in the region and develop a common strategy – how to optimally combine data collection that is focused on providing the specific data needed by country with the need for international comparability? What obstacles might exist at national level to introduce in national survey programmes the health status questions identified? How can this be integrated into national health information systems?

WHO-ECE-Eurostat will prepare a proposal on a research agenda and a plan to implement health surveys as part of official statistics. A panel of key speakers from previous sessions will discuss the proposal.

**VI. ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

Participants are requested to make their own hotel reservations. The ECE secretariat in Geneva is not in position to provide such services to delegates. Participants are advised to book hotel accommodation well in advance of the meeting, since available rooms are limited because of other meetings taking place in Geneva during the month of May. In order to assist them in organizing their accommodation, the UNECE secretariat provides a list of hotels on its website (<http://www.unece.org/stats/geneva.e.html>). If difficulties are encountered, participants may contact their Permanent Mission in Geneva for assistance.

**VII. REGISTRATION, SECURITY MEASURES**

Please complete the attached Conference Registration Form and send it to the UNECE secretariat by fax (+4122 917 0040) or by e-mail to: [mijidgombo.oyunjargal@unece.org](mailto:mijidgombo.oyunjargal@unece.org) by **30 April 2004** at the latest so that it may be processed well in advance of the meeting. The information will be used to register participants with the UN Security Section and to obtain ID badges from Security offices. If you will be accompanied by your spouse, please complete a separate registration form for her/him.

In order to enter the Palais des Nations where the meeting is being held, all participants and accompanying spouses need to obtain a security pass (ID badge). For this purpose, please present yourself with your passport at the Villa Les Feuillantines (shown on the attached map) by 9:00 a.m. at the latest on Monday, 24 May 2004. The Security Identification Office is open Monday to Friday from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (non-stop). For identification and security reasons, delegates are requested to wear their security badges at all times while inside the Palais des Nations.

There are two gates that can be used by participants to enter the UN premises: the pedestrian passage at Place des Nations (tram 13, buses 5 and 8, stop Nations) and the Pregny Gate (Avenue de la Paix 14, buses 8 and 18, stop Appia). For security reasons the Police can at any time temporarily close the Place des Nations gate. Participants may contact the Security Operations and Control Centre at 022 917 2902 to obtain the latest information relating to the security situation at the gates.

**VIII. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDANCE**

All queries concerning the meeting should be addressed to:

Ms. Angela Me  
Chief, Social and Demographic Statistics Section  
Statistical Division, UNECE  
Palais des Nations  
CH 1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

Tel: +41-22-917 16 66

Fax: +41-22-917 00 40

E-mail: [angela.me@unece.org](mailto:angela.me@unece.org)

or

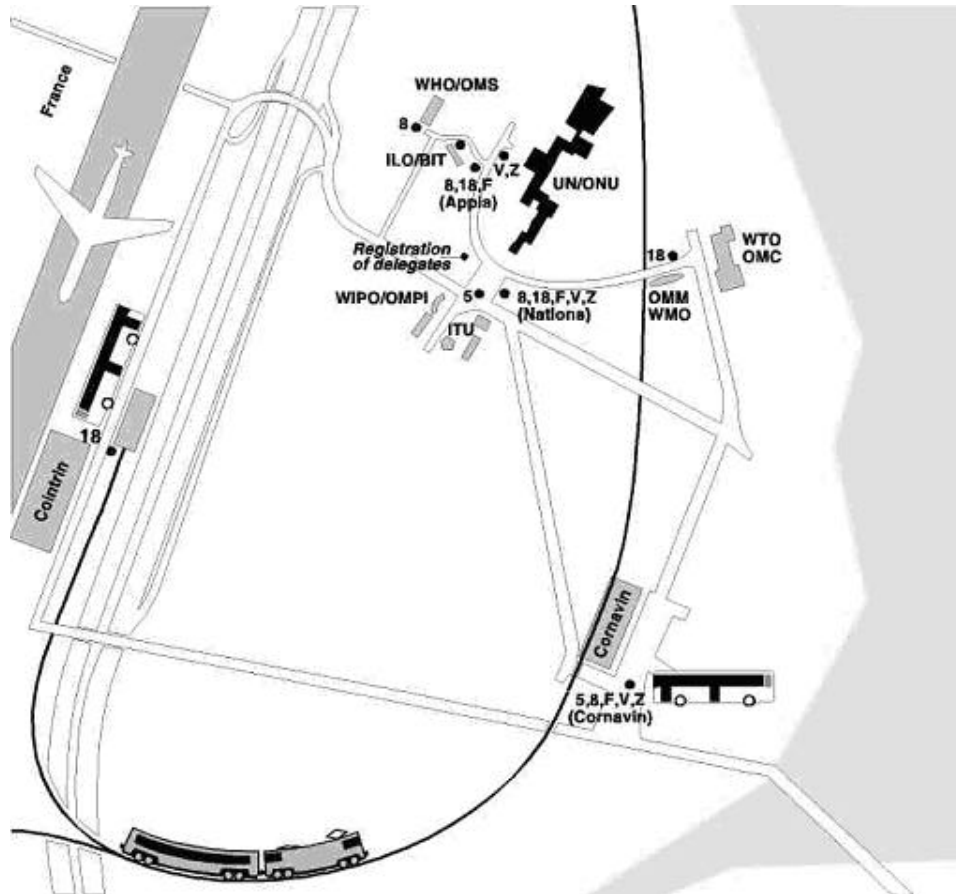
Dr. Colin Mathers  
Acting Coordinator, Epidemiology and Burden of Disease (EBD)  
Global Programme on Evidence for Health Policy (GPE)  
WHO, 20 Avenue Appia  
CH-1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 791 4529

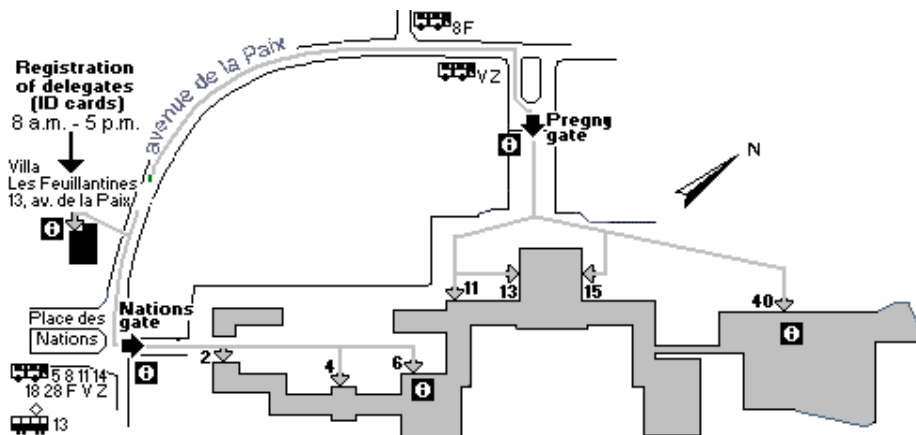
Fax: +41 22 791 4328

E-mail: [mathersc@who.int](mailto:mathersc@who.int)

**How to find the UN building in Geneva:**



**Where to obtain the entry pass (Security Identification Office, Villa les Feuillantines, 13 avenue de la Paix):**



Entry for delegates with valid ground pass: "Place des Nations gate" and "Pregny gate"

Entry for visitors: "Pregny gate" only

Note: a valid photo ID is needed to obtain the ground pass and to gain the entry to the UN premises.



**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA**

***Please Print***

**Conference Registration**

Date

Please fax this completed form to the Host Secretariat and **BRING THIS ORIGINAL** with you to Geneva. An additional form is required for spouses.

**Title of the Conference**

Joint ECE/WHO/Eurostat Meeting on Health Statistics, Geneva, 24 -26 May 2004

**Delegation/Participant of Country, Organisation or Agency**

**Participant**

**Family Name**

**First Name**

Mr.   
Mrs   
Ms

Date Of Birth  /  /

( DD/MM/YYYY)

**Participation Category**

Head of Delegation Members  Observer Organisation  Participating **From / Until**  
 Delegation Member  NGO (ECOSOC Accred.)  From   
 Observer Country  Other (Please specify below)  Until

Do you have a badge issued as a Mission diplomat or employee, NGO card issued in Geneva or a Long Duration conference badge issued at Geneva if so PLEASE TICK HERE

**Document Language Preference**

English  French  Other

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<b>Email Address</b>		
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**On Issue of ID Card**

**Participant Signature**

**Date**

Participant photograph if form is sent in advance of the conference date.

Please PRINT your name on the reverse side of the photograph

PLEASE NOTE ONLY CERTAIN CONFERENCES REQUIRE A PHOTO. IF YOU ARE NOT ASKED TO PROVIDE ONE BY THE CONFERENCE STAFF YOUR CONFERENCE IS NON PHOTO

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