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**UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)
STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**

Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2007)
Expert Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX 2007)
(Geneva, 8-11 May 2007)

INFORMATION NOTICE No. 1

The meetings will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, from 8 to 11 May 2007,
starting on 8 May at 9.30 a.m.

I. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

1. The main objectives of the regular meetings on the management of statistical information systems are the following:

- To provide a forum for the exchange of experiences among informatics managers from National Statistical Offices and other government agencies and international organizations undertaking statistical activities;
- To make recommendations in order to coordinate the activities of different international organizations in the area of statistical information processing;
- To collect, discuss and make available practices in the management of statistical information processing, as well as to encourage the exchange of practices in all other particular areas related to electronic data processing;
- To assess the activities undertaken within all areas on electronic data reporting, and to make recommendations on future directions to the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians;
- To facilitate and encourage the implementation of standards and recommendations in the field of statistical computing among national statistical offices and other concerned agencies in the UNECE region.

2. The Meeting is primarily intended for informatics managers from National Statistical Offices and other concerned national and international agencies; and statisticians and informaticians responsible for the coordination, planning and management of complex projects in the field of statistical information processing.

II. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, beginning on 8 May 2007 at 9.30 a.m. The work programme of the meeting will consist of the following substantive topics:

- (i) Governance and management of statistical information systems;
- (ii) Statistical information systems architecture;
- (iii) Accessibility and usability of IT applications;
- (iv) Review and follow-up to the activities of the Conference of European Statisticians.

4. Detailed explanatory notes on the nature and expected outcomes of topics (i) to (iv) are provided in Section V of this Information Notice.

5. A separate agenda will be issued for the OECD Expert Group on Statistical Data and Metadata exchange that will begin at 14.00 on 10 May 2007.

III. PARTICIPATION AND ACCREDITATION

6. Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organizations are welcome to participate in the meeting. All participants must be accredited by the competent authorities of their country or international organization, 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/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems.

7. The statistical offices and international organizations are asked **to inform the UNECE secretariat before 24 February 2007** whether their organization intends to participate at the meeting and/or submit a contribution on the topics mentioned above. Please indicate the topic on which the paper will be as well as the *participant(s) name(s) and their contact data*.

8. Participants are requested to fill in the attached Conference **registration form**, which will also be available in Word format on the website at the address indicated in paragraph 14. It should be sent to the secretariat by fax (+41 22 917-0040) or email (diane.serikoff@unece.org) by **10 April 2007** so that it may be processed well in advance of the meeting.

9. In order to enter the Palais des Nations, all participants need to obtain a security pass (ID card). For this purpose, please present yourself with your passport at the Pregny Gate (shown on the attached map) by 8:30 a.m. at the latest on Tuesday, 8 May 2007. Participants are requested to keep this ID card with them at all times for the duration of the meeting.

10. Two gates can be used for entering the UN premises: the pedestrian passage at Place des Nations (buses 5, 8 and 18, stop Nations) and the Pregny Gate (Avenue de la Paix, 14, buses 8 and 18, stop Appia).

IV. ACCOMMODATION

11. Detailed information regarding hotel accommodation in Geneva can be obtained from the website of the Geneva Tourist Office:

<http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/>

The website also contains other practical information. Participants are kindly requested to make their own reservations. As Geneva is often quite busy with international meetings, it is advisable to do so as early as possible.

IV. DOCUMENTATION, METHODS OF WORK AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

12. The official language of the meeting is English. The documents should, therefore, be submitted in English only. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- The papers, not exceeding 10 pages in length, should be sent to the UNECE secretariat **by 30 March 2007 at the latest.**
- Papers should be submitted in electronic format in **MS Word** by e-mail, diskette or CD-ROM to Ms. Diane Serikoff (diane.serikoff@unece.org).
- Templates in Word containing the header, and format will be made available on the website or may be requested by e-mail (diane.serikoff@unece.org).

13. The Steering Group preparing the meeting has asked selected countries to prepare invited papers and appointed discussants to lead the discussion on individual agenda items. The Discussants are indicated in the Explanatory Notes to the Agenda in Section V below. For each substantive item on the agenda, the discussants will invite 2-3 speakers to write an invited paper and to present them at the meeting. All other participants are welcome to submit a supporting paper on any topic of the agenda.

14. Authors of invited papers will have about 20 minutes per paper for the presentation. Authors of supporting papers may be given 5-10 minutes (time permitting) to highlight the main issues raised in their papers. Presenters may use PowerPoint presentations, Adobe Acrobat full screen presentations, A4/letter transparencies as well as Internet access. The UNECE secretariat cannot provide translation of the presentations. The secretariat will post the presentations on the website after the meeting.

- PowerPoint and Adobe presentations should be sent to the UNECE secretariat **by 24 April 2007** at the latest, so that these may be installed on the presentation computer prior to the meeting.

15. Invited and supporting papers along with their summaries will be made available on the website of the UNECE secretariat at the following location:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.05.msis.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

Topic (i): Governance and management of statistical information systems

(Discussant: Cathy Wright (IMF), Tel.: +1-202 623-7516, cwright@imf.org)

16. The papers presented and discussed under this topic will deal with changes in statistical offices and their impact on IT strategies, particularly changes in funding, outsourcing and service partnerships.

17. The management of, acquisition, transfer and retention of knowledge will also be discussed in this context. More general management issues will cover managing projects, programmes and portfolios of services.

18. The growing use of administrative registers and records for statistical purposes necessitates considering the coordination and collaboration between several government institutions. Authors of papers and participants may also wish to consider relations with international statistical agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Topic (ii): Statistical information systems architecture

(Discussant: Karen Doherty (Statistics Canada), Tel.: +1-613-951-1613, karen.doherty@statcan.ca)

19. This topic will review a variety of issues related to the architecture of statistical information systems. These include consideration of pros and cons of the re-usability of IT tools and components for official statistics.

20. The discussion on metadata-driven systems for raw data collection, processing, warehousing, dissemination and interchange of aggregated statistics is of interest. Various data collection channels may also be considered. Another view is represented by the service-oriented architecture.

21. The topic should also cover the issues related to statistical disclosure control, including prevention of drilling down from macrodata to microdata.

Topic (iii): Accessibility and usability

(Discussant: Michael D. Levi (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics), Tel.: +1-202 691-5100, levi.michael@bls.gov)

22. Users of today expect to access statistical applications and on-line services through user-friendly interfaces and with minimum training or none. This topic will therefore review usability testing, understanding users' needs and client analysis.

23. The proliferation of on-line, mainly Web-based, services bring to the scene new audiences with varied needs such as the use of a dynamic graphics. A special case is visualisation using geography, and using visualisation as part of a search process. Other alternative methods of visualisation may be required for visually impaired users. Invited and supporting papers may also cover these issues.

24. The current trend on the Web is the move from actively seeking information to the use of personalized alert services (RSS feeds, etc.). The competition of the Web services provided by statistical agencies with other providers necessitates the promotion of official statistics within the public search engines (Google, MSN, Yahoo, etc.)

Topic (iv): Review and follow-up to the activities of the Conference of European Statisticians

(Discussant: Juraj Riečan, Tel: +41-22 917-3328; juraj.riecan@unece.org)

25. Following the tradition established by the former UNECE Working Party on Electronic Data Processing, the meeting is invited to review the activities in the field of statistical information processing in which the Conference is active and to make suggestions for its future work. The focus will be on:

- The first release of the Common Metadata Framework for National Statistical Offices and plans for the future work;
- Confidentiality, in particular the protection of statistical microdata for release;
- Evaluation of efficiency of statistical data editing.

VII. FURTHER INFORMATION

26. For further information, please contact the following organizers:

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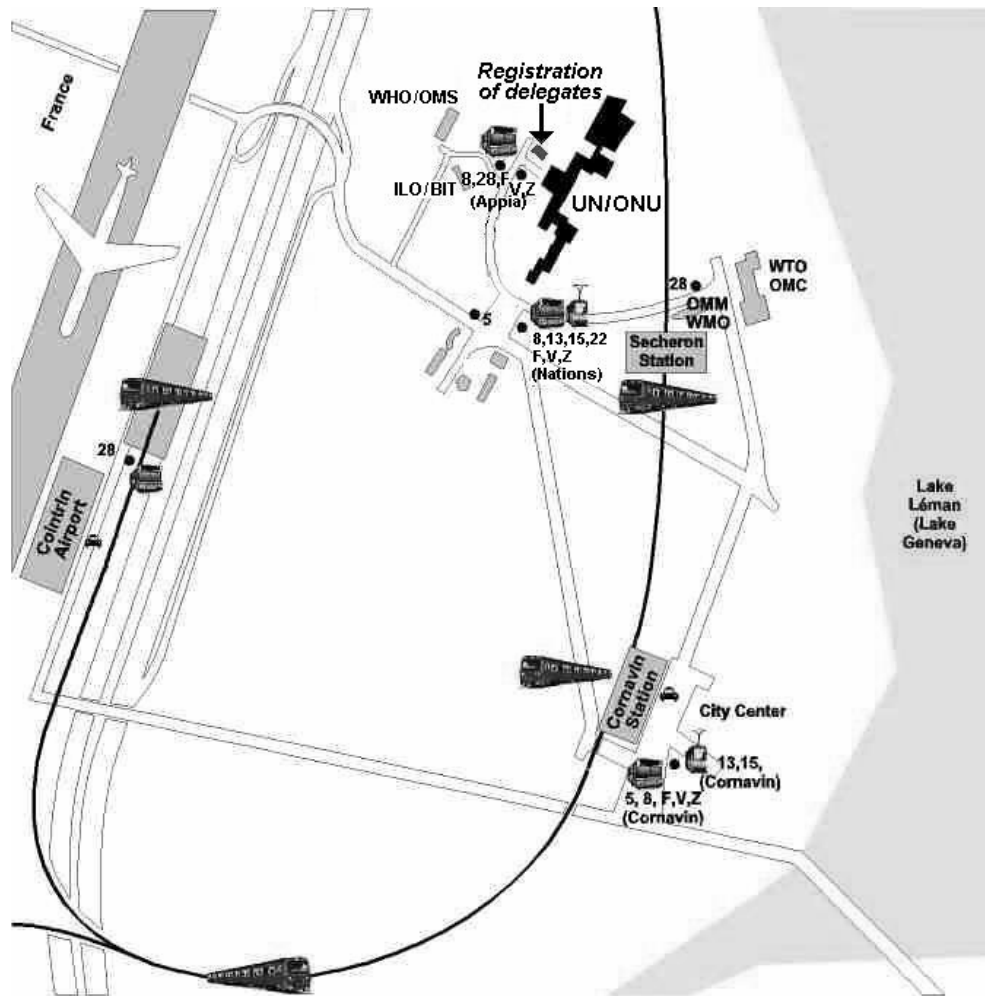
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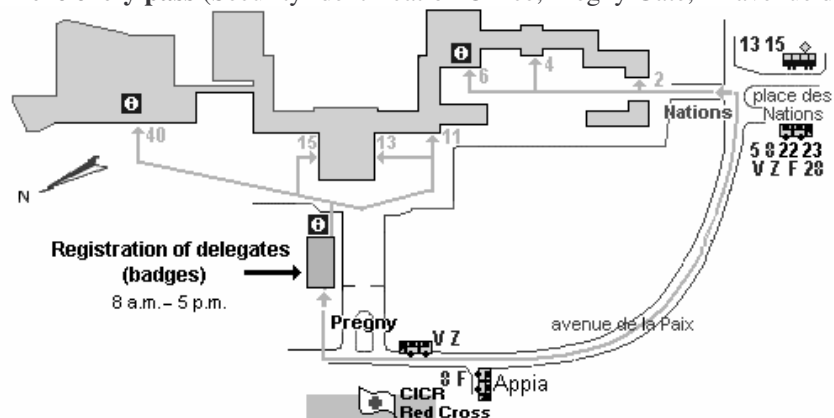
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How to find the UN building in Geneva:



Where to obtain the entry pass (Security Identification Office, Pregny Gate, 14 avenue de la Paix):



NEW – 1 JUNE 2006

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.

Please send this form to Diane Serikoff, UNECE Statistical Division (fax: +41-22 917-0040, diane.serikoff@unece.org)
and bring this original with you to Geneva

An additional form is required for spouses.



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

Meeting Registration Form

Please Print

Date

Title and dates of the meeting

Meeting on Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2007) (8-10 May 2007)
Expert Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX 2007) (10-11 May 2007)

Delegation of country, Organization or Agency

Participant

Family Name

First Name(s)

Mr. ☐

Mrs. ☐

Ms. ☐

Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)

/ /

Participation Category

Head of delegation (member country) ☐

Delegation member (member country) ☐

Observer (country) ☐

Observer (international organization) ☐

Non-governmental organization ☐

(in observer status with ECOSOC) ☐

Other (Please specify ☐
below)

Participating From / Until

From

Until

Do you have already a valid (at the time of the meeting) badge for entry to the UN Office at Geneva? (leave blank if not sure) ☐

Place of issue of the passport or ID

Passport or ID Number

Valid Until

Official occupation (in own country)

Permanent official address

Official telephone N°.

Fax N°.

E-mail address

Address in Geneva (if known at the time of registration)

I intend to submit a paper on (working title and topic)

On Issue of ID Card

Participant Signature

Date

Security Use Only

Card N°. Issued

Initials, UN Official