



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/2004/4/Add.1
1 June 2004

ENGLISH ONLY

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Fifty-second plenary session
(Paris, 8-10 June 2004)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE ECE
REGION,
2004/2005 AND 2005/2006: AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

**SUMMARY OF THE STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED
BY THE OTHER UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL COMMISSIONS**

Paper prepared by the ECE secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. The 2002 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians agreed that an exchange of information and knowledge between the UN Regional Commissions and Committees of Statistics could enhance support for official statistics in the regions. In that context, it was suggested that a summary report of the planned future work of other regional Committees of Statistics be prepared as background information for future plenary sessions of the Conference.

2. Since 2003, the ECE secretariat has been inviting the UN Regional Commissions to contribute information on their planned work in statistics. The information provided by them in 2003 was presented as an addendum to the 2003 issue of the Integrated Presentation (CES/2003/3/Add.8). In March 2004, the Regional Commissions were invited to provide updated information. Replies were received from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Western

Asia (ESCA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The present note summarizes these contributions.

STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC) – (ECLAC WORK PROGRAMME IN STATISTICS)

3. The ECLAC work programme in statistics follows the priorities and recommendations set by the Statistical Conference of the Americas for the July 2003-June 2005 period. Accordingly, the programme of work is divided into four subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993

Subprogramme 2: Improvement of the production and use of statistics on social variables and well-being

Subprogramme 3: Improvement and extension of the production of statistics in specific areas (environmental statistics; statistics on science, technology and innovation; statistics on gender equity)

Subprogramme 4: Modernization of statistical systems and data dissemination

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)

Element 1.1: Providing access to technical documentation and support for those responsible for 1993 SNA and for producers of basic statistics in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean

4. ECLAC will continue, inter alia, to translate and disseminate Spanish-language versions of the technical documentation related to the System of National Accounts.

Element 1.2: Follow-up of the implementation process and sharing of experience and training in national accounts and basic statistics in relation to 1993 SNA

5. ECLAC is acting as the focal point for Latin America and the Caribbean in the process of implementing the System of National Accounts 1993 and all of its complementary systems (quarterly accounts, regional accounts and satellite accounts), and will continue to evaluate progress in this area.

Element 1.3: Improvement, extension and harmonization of the production of basic statistics, prices and macrostatistical schemes

6. This element covers activities on harmonization of consumer price indices. In its capacity of coordinator for the Latin American and Caribbean region in the implementation of the International Comparison Programme, it will convene meetings for joint definition with the countries of the basket of goods and services to be used in price surveys in the region. ECLAC will also cooperate with the World Tourism Organization for the implementation of joint activities relating to the preparation of tourism satellite accounts and the construction of measuring indicators for tourist activity in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Element 1.4: Improvement, extension and harmonization of external sector statistics

7. The work will focus on the next revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities and on the Central Product Classification, to which changes will be made in the year 2007.

Subprogramme 2: Improvement of the production and use of statistics on social variables and well-being

Element 2.1: Improvement of the production of statistics on social variables

8. Activities planned under the programme for household surveys include regional workshops to discuss and analyse important issues relating to the execution of surveys and the development of indicators for assessing living standards, poverty, employment and income distribution.

9. The Population Division of ECLAC (CELADE) will continue to provide support for preparatory activities in the countries that have not yet conducted their census, taking into account the experience accumulated in other countries. It will also continue to update its census data bank with the censuses of the 2000 round, will expand it with censuses from previous decades and will convert all the databases of censuses from the 1960s and 1970s to REDATAM format in order to facilitate access and use. ECLAC will also continue to implement the project "Investigation of International Migration in Latin America".

Element 2.2: Use of information from household surveys and other sources

10. These activities include the dissemination and use of the household and census results. Technical assistance will continue to be provided for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the International Plan of Action on Ageing and the agreements adopted at other summits.

Element 2.3: Participation in working and study groups on issues of regional interest

11. ECLAC will continue to act as the secretariat for the Rio Group on poverty statistics, which is chaired by IBGE of Brazil, and was created in 1995 by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

Element 2.4: Other international technical cooperation projects

12. At the beginning of 2002, ECLAC began implementation of the project "Network of Institutions and Experts on Social and Environmental Statistics" (REDESA), with the cooperation of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and with funds from the United Nations Development Account. ECLAC will also implement other activities in follow-up to the millennium goals.

Subprogramme 3: Improvement and expansion of the production of statistics in specific areas

Element 3.1: Environmental statistics

13. ECLAC, in the context of the project "Network of Institutions and Experts on Social and Environmental Statistics" (REDESA), will carry out various activities in the biennium 2003-2004. The component of this project relating to the creation of the network referred to includes the development of an Internet site, the compilation of a directory of experts, the generation of a document database, the development of an indicators database and the holding of regional workshops, with the aim of sharing experiences among countries and making progress in various aspects of the production of environmental statistics.

Element 3.2: Statistics on science, technology and innovation

14. The activities that are taking place in this area are concerned with identifying and standardizing basic statistics and indicators for science and technology, and with adapting existing methodologies to the needs of the region. Special attention will be given to the need to move towards a regional consensus on the use of common methodologies in order to facilitate the comparison of statistical information in this area. ECLAC will also support the establishment of a Latin American observatory on information and telecommunications technology, in cooperation with the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas and the Ibero American Network on Science and Technology Indicators.

Element 3.3: Statistics on gender equity

15. This proposal is concerned with the need to promote the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the production of statistics at the national and regional level, and to strengthen the links between producers and users of these statistics in the region. ECLAC will formulate a proposal to collect the relevant information for analysis of the situation of women in the region and gender inequalities. Other activities will cover:

- *Time-use surveys:* Time-use surveys can be used to identify the time devoted to different types of activities, as well as to have a clearer picture of all forms of work carried out both outside and within the home, whether remunerated or non-remunerated.
- *Violence:* ECLAC will contribute to implementing the recommendations of the first meeting on gender indicators that was held in Bolivia in November 2001.
- *Poverty:* ECLAC will continue working on a methodology for measuring and describing poverty in terms of a phenomenon that has a differentiated effect on men and women.

Subprogramme 4: Modernization of statistical systems and data dissemination

16. This subprogramme includes activities that are very varied, in both institutional and technical terms. All these activities however have the common basis of the need of national and regional agencies, which produce and disseminate statistics, to modernize and adapt themselves to the development of the institutional framework that guides the production and dissemination of statistics, as well as changes in the demand for information on the part of users.

Element 4.1: Advocacy of the strategic role of statistics and their use for the formulation and follow-up of economic and social development policies

17. *Increasing the awareness of users and advocacy of the role of statistics:* In cooperation with PARIS21, the objectives include advocacy of the use of statistics for the

design and follow-up of national and regional policies and the establishment of links between producers and users of statistics in various sectors of the economy and civil society.

18. *The role of statistics in regional integration:* ECLAC will cooperate with regional integration schemes in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to encourage the role of statistical offices in regional integration programmes and institutions. In connection with these activities, efforts will be made to advocate the strategic role of economic and social statistics and their harmonization in the context of the economic integration and convergence strategies.

Element 4.2: Development and strengthening of the management capacity of organizations producing statistics

19. The programme of action has two specific orientations: the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the institutes and national statistical organizations, and the provision of assistance for training and education for statisticians.

Element 4.3: Extension, improvement and harmonization of information systems and the use of the Internet environment for the dissemination of information and data

20. The programme includes the development of new advanced indicators for follow-up and analysis of current economic and social trends and the strengthening of the geographical and territorial dimension in the dissemination of regional economic and social statistics.

Programme of Meetings and Conferences organised by ECLAC

21. Expert group meetings, workshops and other events planned by the ECLAC Statistics and Economic Projections Division during 2004/2005 are presented in the following table:

| Date (2004) | Venue | Title |
|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Feb.-April | * | Workshops on strengthening environmental statistics capacities for Andean Community countries. |
| May 10-14 | Rio de Janeiro | UNSD/Rio Group regional meeting on poverty statistics |
| April | * | A seminar on Tourism Satellite Account jointly with WTO for countries belonging to Mercosur and Chile. |
| April 20-22 | Panama | PARIS21's regional workshop for Central American countries |
| May 24-25 | Santiago | Third meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. |

* Not specified

| Date (2004) | Venue | Title |
|--------------------|----------------|--|
| May–Nov. | Lima | Two meetings of experts to examine techniques and methodologies used in drawing up household surveys and their incorporation into a social information system which uses information from other sources for poverty analysis and the design of social policies (Programme MECOVI). |
| May–Dec. | Santiago | Two meetings on Social Statistics, according to Program REDESA (Strengthening Of Networking Of Institutions And Experts To Accelerate The Development Of Social And Environmental Statistics In The Countries Of Latin America And The Caribbean) |
| 31May-1June | Santiago | Third REDIMA work group meeting on modelling macroeconomic coordination in Andean countries and Mercosur. |
| June–Nov. | * | Meetings of experts to examine methodologies and procedures that will enable countries of the region to produce standard national and international indicators for the environment (corresponds to the two workshops on Environmental Statistics of the Program REDESA). |
| October | Santiago | Seminar on Tourism Satellite Accounts jointly with TWO. (“Measurement and Analysis of Tourism”). |
| * | * | Workshop on National Accounts |
| November | Rio de Janeiro | Rio Group Meeting – Social Statistics |
| November | San Juan | Fourth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas |
| December | Santiago | OECD/ECLAC expert group meeting on business surveys in Latin America. |
| June | * | Third Meeting of the Statistical Commission of the Americas -ECLAC |
| July | * | Regional workshop on Tourism Satellite Account. |
| September | * | Meeting of experts to make recommendations on the revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission; |
| October | * | Seminar on National Accounts to discuss topics concerning the process of revision of SNA 1993. |

* Not specified

| Date (2004) | Venue | Title |
|--------------------|--------------|---|
| October | Santiago | Fifth REDIMA work group meeting on modelling macroeconomic coordination in Latin America. |
| December | Santiago | OECD/ECLAC expert group meeting on business surveys in Latin America. |
| * | * | Workshop on Tourism Satellite Account aimed to Mercosur countries. |
| * | * | Workshop on Tourism Satellite Account aimed to Caribbean English speaking countries. |
| * | * | Workshop on Tourism Satellite Account aimed to Central American countries. |

* Not specified

STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)

22. The statistical activities planned by ESCWA in 2004 are presented in this section. The information is presented for the different ESCWA Teams concerned with statistics.

Statistics Coordination Unit (SCU):

- **Recurrent publications:**
Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region, 24th Issue.
- **Meetings and/or workshops:**
 - 6th Session of the ESCWA Statistics Committee, October 2004.
 - UNSD-ESCWA Final Evaluation Meeting of the ESCWA-Development Account Project on “Strengthening Statistical Capacity in the ESCWA Region”.
- **Projects:**
Strengthening Statistical Capacity in the ESCWA Region.

Social Statistics Activities:

- **Meetings and/or workshops:**
 - Expert Group Meeting on Disability Statistics, December 2004.
- **Recurrent publications:**
 - Bulletin on Vital Statistics in the ESCWA Region, 6th Issue.
- **Non-Recurrent publications:**
 - Where Do Arab Women Stand in the Development Process? A Gender-Based Statistical Analysis.
 - Wall Chart on Key Indicators of the Labour Market.
 - ESCWA Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- **Technical Materials (including databases and related IT activities):**
 - ESCWA Social Statistics Information System (SSIS): population, vital statistics, health, social statistics, labour force, gender...
 - Website on social statistics.
- **Projects:**
 - Development of National Gender Statistics Programmes in the Arab Countries.
 - Household Surveys Capabilities Programme.

International Trade Statistics activities:

- **Recurrent publications:**
 - External Trade Bulletin No. 13
- **Meetings and/or workshops:**
 - Seminar on the compilation of trade in services statistics, December 2004.

- **Technical Material:**
 - Maintenance of the ESCWA Statistical Information System: Trade Module.
 - Development of a data file on trade in services for ESCWA Member Countries.

Economic Statistics Activities:

- **Recurrent activities:**
 - National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region, 24th Issue.
 - Brochure of Economic Indicators of the ESCWA Region, 1st Issue.
- **Databases:**
 - Maintenance of the Economic Statistics Information System (ESIS): financial statistics database module (continuous activity).
 - Maintenance of the Economic Statistics Information System (ESIS): national accounts database module (continuous activity).
- **Extra-budgetary activities:**

The International Comparisons Program (ICP), launched in 2003 involves the following activities:

 - A. Creation of regional Structured Product Descriptions (SPD) for 155 basic headings of the classifications of expenditure on GDP;
 - B. Editing and reviewing the national Product Specifications (PS) under each SPD and checking for the PSs commonalities;
 - C. Producing the regional product list for the price survey;
 - D. Translation of the ICP Handbook into Arabic;
 - E. Meetings and workshops:
 - i. Two meetings of the ICP Global Executive Board (ESCWA is represented by the Executive Secretary);
 - ii. Two meetings of the ICP Regional Executive Board (ESCWA is represented by a Senior Statistician in the capacity of ICP Regional Coordinator for Western Asia);
 - iii. Two-three meetings for Regional Coordinators with the ICP Global Office at the World Bank;
 - iv. Second ICP regional meeting and workshop, Cairo, 12-16 June 2004;
 - v. Third ICP regional meeting, Beirut (for 3-4 days in September 2004).
 - F. Backstopping and Technical Assistance to member States regarding:
 - i. The preparation of PSs, using a special software developed by the World Bank;
 - ii. The training of price data collectors; and
 - iii. Monitoring, checking and validating the results obtained from the price survey.

Sustainable Development and Productivity Statistics Activities:

- **Recurrent Publications:**

Review of Sustainable Development and Productivity Activities
- **Meetings and/or workshops:**
 - Workshop on Environment Statistics, Damascus, 4-8 April 2004 (in collaboration with UNSD and UNEP)

- Workshop on Energy Statistics and Seminar on Energy Classification, 31 May – 2 June 2004 (in collaboration with UNSD and OPEC)
 - Workshop on Industrial Classifications ISIC / CPC revision and implementation issues (19-23 July 2004). (in collaboration with UNSD)
- **Databases:**
- Maintenance of the Databases on Industry, Agriculture, and Energy
 - Maintenance of the Portal on R and D Institutions,
- Development of database on environment and water from UNSD questionnaires on the Environment.

STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)

Scope and modalities

23. During the current biennium 2004-2005, the Statistics Division in ESCAP continues to have a dual function in promoting statistical capacity building in the developing countries of the region and in making comparable statistical information on the region available to various users ranging from governments to researchers, civil society organizations and the general public. It also provides statistical services to the rest of the secretariat.

24. ESCAP supports statistical development in areas where common standards would be most useful and where statistical capacity is particularly weak. It promotes the use of international standards in the region through technical training, advocacy, awareness creation, expert and institutional networking and sharing of information and good practices. A typical way of achieving the above is to convene government statisticians, other senior managers and statisticians, and key users of statistics when appropriate, for technical seminars and workshops. These group activities are often conducted jointly with development partners. Panels of leading statistical experts are used as a mechanism to identify and study specific requirements or emerging needs in the region. Meeting documents and newsletters on ESCAP's statistical activities are posted on the web site (<http://www.unescap.org/stat/>), and occasional publications are used for disseminating technical information.

25. ESCAP publishes several important statistical publications, i.e., Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific (biennial), Asia-Pacific in Figures and Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (quarterly). Data on the region is increasingly becoming accessible through the abovementioned web site.

26. Advisory missions on the request of governments are another important form of assistance. Currently, the Statistics Division has two regional advisors working respectively in poverty statistics and economic statistics. In other areas of statistics, advisory missions are launched using ad hoc resources.

27. In regional coordination of statistical development, ESCAP is a recognized and sought-after partner in initiatives ranging from jointly organized capacity-building activities to launching and following up major global statistical programmes. It fosters technical cooperation among countries and provides the secretariat for key forums where leading Asian and Pacific statisticians gather to articulate their views and provide input to the global statistical agenda.

28. To carry out its work the Statistics Division currently has 12 Professional and 14 General Service staff. As the regular budget has very limited funds available for technical assistance, additional resources have to be raised from multilateral and bilateral donors. Recent donors and collaborating partners include the Government of the Republic of Korea, UNDP, UNIFEM, UNSD, WHO, ADB and OECD. The Division also enjoys collaboration from many national statistical offices in the region, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Statistics New Zealand which provide free services by sending their staff as resource persons or advisers for ESCAP technical meetings or advisory missions.

29. The Tokyo-based Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) is the training arm of ESCAP for practical statistical methods and operations. The Government of Japan provides the bulk of the Institute's finances. The work programme of SIAP mainly consists of

Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)-based Courses (up to six months) and Outreach Programme Courses which address both foundational training on official statistics and specific issues relevant to sub-regions or individual countries over a wide range of economic, social, and demographic statistics. To carry out capacity building more effectively, SIAP is teaming up with the Statistics Division and other international organizations in rendering technical assistance complementary to its activities. SIAP is also taking on a bolder role as regional coordinator of statistical training activities.

Statistics in the new structure of ESCAP

30. Under the new structure of ESCAP which entered into operation in January 2003, the statistics subprogramme and the Statistics Division remain as separate entities. The subprogramme continues to reflect the statistical priorities of ESCAP members and associate members, as expressed in international, regional and national statistical forums or through bilateral contacts. In the 2004-2005 biennium, the subprogramme aims to improve the statistical capabilities of members and associate members of ESCAP with a special focus on strengthening their capacities to collate and utilize sectoral data, particularly relating to poverty, and measure progress towards mobilizing international, regional and national resources in achieving development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

31. The former Committee on Statistics, ESCAP's biggest forum for government statisticians of Asia and the Pacific, held 13 sessions until 2002 and was disbanded afterwards. In the new conference structure, statistics is taken up by the Subcommittee on Statistics that reports to the Committee on Poverty Reduction, which in turn reports to the ESCAP Commission (see Annex 1). The Committee on Poverty Reduction, which is serviced by the Poverty and Development Division and Statistics Division of ESCAP, met for the first time from 6 to 10 October 2003 in Bangkok and discussed poverty statistics among other agenda items. The first session of the Subcommittee on Statistics has been organized in Bangkok from 18 to 20 February 2004.

32. With the concern that the new ESCAP conference structure might undermine their ability to work collaboratively on a range of statistical issues of common interest, statisticians of the region have moved towards creating an apex forum of official statisticians in Asia and the Pacific. The Subcommittee on Statistics at its first session has endorsed the proposed forum and has broadly agreed to its format. It is expected that this new biennial forum will influence national decision-making as well as provide regional input to global discussions at the UN Statistical Commission. The first meeting, referred to as APEX 1 with AP referring to Asia/Pacific and EX for Excellence in Statistics, is scheduled to be held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, on 20-21 January 2005. The agenda and working procedures of the forum are being drawn up by the office-holders of the Subcommittee on Statistics.

Main intergovernmental statistical meetings since the CES 2003

First session of the Committee on Poverty Reduction, 8-10 October 2003, Bangkok

33. The Committee on Poverty Reduction at its first session discussed the financial and other key resource mobilization issues in implementing the Millennium Development Goals, as well as issues related to poverty statistics and poverty measurement, transfer of good and innovative practices and information and communication technology for poverty reduction.

34. While debating poverty statistics from different perspectives, the Committee stressed that good-quality poverty statistics were essential for designing effective poverty reduction policies and also for evaluating their impact. The main issues which called for the attention of the Committee were:

- Strengthening national statistical infrastructure and systems with a view to promoting the quality of poverty statistics;
- Viewing survey respondents as clients of the national statistical system and making data methods and results available to the public in a user-friendly format;
- The need for statistical agencies to give easy access to microdata via web sites and other means, provided that the principle of confidentiality of personal data was fully respected;
- Transparent disclosure of the sources on which data collection are based, and of any limitations that underlying survey techniques and methods pose for the interpretation of data;
- The need for poverty statisticians and policy planners to regard the media as allies and to actively nurture relationships with their representatives;
- The benefits of linking the results of different household surveys, allowing the integration of income and expenditure data, on the one hand, and other socio-economic information, on the other;
- Increased international efforts to develop alternative measures of poverty and standardize concepts and methodologies in that field;
- The importance of according adequate priority and resources to the collection of the administrative data that were needed to monitor development targets; and
- The need for national statistical offices to treat suppliers of administrative data as valued customers and partners.

35. The Committee also noted that a regional action plan to improve poverty statistics and support the Millennium Development Goals was needed and suggested that the Subcommittee on Statistics be given the mandate to prepare a draft plan. The proceedings of the meeting can be found at: http://www.unescap.org/pdd/CPR/CPR2003/English/CPR_RepE.pdf

First session of the Subcommittee on Statistics, 18-20 February 2004, Bangkok

36. At its first session, the Subcommittee on Statistics discussed a broad range of statistical issues of international and regional dimensions, which included disability statistics, health statistics, integrating gender into statistics, issues in poverty measurement and the regional action plan on poverty statistics, statistics on the informal sector and the non-observed economy, the International Comparison Programme (ICP) and statistics to measure the information society.

37. The Subcommittee welcomed the two-year project of ESCAP on strengthening regional capacities in disability measurement and statistics and encouraged the use of the definition of disability as given in the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) over the impairment-based concept in national data collections.

38. The Subcommittee further discussed the draft “Regional Action Plan for Improving Poverty Measurement and Capacity Building in Poverty Monitoring in the ESCAP Region”

and considered that ESCAP could play a vital role as a coordination secretariat for poverty statistics and capacity building in the region. It directed the secretariat to elaborate a revised Action Plan. It also welcomed the secretariat's intention to hold a workshop on the non-observed economy jointly with OECD and ADB in May 2004 in Bangkok, and noted its work in engendering statistics, the progress made in the region in carrying out the ICP and the regional implications in following up the World Summit on the Information Society, with focus on measurement issues. A comprehensive report of the Subcommittee can be downloaded from the meeting website at: <http://www.unescap.org/stat/sos1/index.asp>

Planned work activities in statistics in 2004-2005

39. As endorsed by the Subcommittee on Statistics at its first session (SoS1), the work programme of ESCAP in statistics will focus on improving the national capacities to monitor the Millennium Development Goals and the achievement of other internationally agreed development goals stemming from global conferences. With a particular emphasis on poverty statistics, priorities will continue to remain on gender statistics, disability statistics, economic statistics (e.g., implementation of the revised 1993 SNA, the non-observed economy and support to the regional implementation of the 2004 ICP round), statistics on the information society and, resources permitting, on environmental statistics. As funding for most of these activities requires extrabudgetary resources, planning for concrete activities should continue to be done in a flexible manner depending on the availability of resources. The detailed activity plan is described below according to each thematic area.

Poverty statistics and MDG monitoring

40. After SoS1, ESCAP has initiated steps to develop the Regional Action Plan for Improving Poverty Measurement and Capacity Building in Poverty Monitoring. Following the SoS1 recommendations, a **Steering Group** consisting of Subcommittee representatives from the various subregions of ESCAP will be established to oversee the elaboration of the Action Plan and its implementation schedule. Furthermore, an Inter-Secretariat Working Group (ISWG) will be formed consisting of various major players in the region with regard to capacity building in poverty statistics and relevant MDG indicators to collaborate on the final design and implementation of the Action Plan.

41. The Action Plan will try to achieve three objectives: capacity building, cooperation and collaboration, and data access, and bilateral and multilateral funding will be sought to carry out the proposed activities.

Gender in statistics

42. ESCAP will continue in the coming years to give high priority to integrating gender into statistics and indicators. It will use ESCAP workshops on statistical topics to introduce gender concepts wherever possible. Building on the recent work done to integrate unpaid work into national policies (an output of which was the ESCAP Guidebook on Integrating Unpaid Work into National Policies), it will seek to prepare a new project in collaboration with ILO, UNDP and UNIFEM to backstop national statistical offices in the region in improving their measures of informal employment and unpaid work where a large share of the female labour force is found in the region.

43. On the occasion of Beijing+10 in 2005, a statistical publication on the profile of women and men in ESCAP countries will be produced. The study will take stock of the availability of gender data in ESCAP countries, evaluate progress made in improving the situation of women as follow-up to the recommendations of the 1995 Beijing Platform for

Action and assess the state of the art in achieving the MDG target on “empowerment of women”. The gender profile by country will be made available on the website of ESCAP for public access.

Disability statistics

44. In May 2004, ESCAP will implement the first activity in its new two-year project on disability statistics and measurement. This project, which is funded by the Republic of Korea, will be implemented by ESCAP with support from WHO, SIAP and the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2004-2005. A series of training workshops will be held for statisticians and policy makers and analysts in the use of the United Nations Guidelines and Principles and WHO’s International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). The project will assist in the design of national tools and strategies to collect data on disability and draft action plans to improve national disability statistics and measurement.

Economic statistics

45. UNESCAP in collaboration with OECD and the Asian Development Bank will conduct a Workshop on Measuring the Non-observed Economy in Bangkok from 11 to 14 May 2004. The objective of this workshop is to establish a dialogue on current best practices in measuring the Non-observed Economy and in the compilation of exhaustive estimates of GDP.

46. In December 2004, a joint UNSD/UNESCAP Workshop on National Accounts will discuss progress and further plans for the implementation of the 1993 SNA.

Statistics on the information society

47. ESCAP has closely followed the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Well in advance of the first phase of the WSIS, ESCAP had prepared a capacity building project for assisting its developing member countries to enhance their capacity to monitor and measure the Information Society, in terms of their readiness as Information Societies as well as for assessing their use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

48. As part of global statistical initiatives developed in conjunction with the preparation of the WSIS, ESCAP is actively participating in those UN-wide initiatives put in place to respond to the recommendations emerging at the Side Event on "Monitoring the Information Society: Data, Measurement and Methods (Geneva, 8-9 December 2003)". In particular, ESCAP has participated in improving a draft questionnaire designed to survey metainformation on ICT statistics available at National Statistical Offices of the Asia-Pacific region.

49. A collection of statistical metainformation available at web sites, printed publications, newspaper articles and so forth is currently being carried out for research purposes in ESCAP. Through its regional advisers on economic statistics and on ICT (Information, Communications and Space Technology Division), ESCAP has commenced replying to individual country requests for assistance with standards in this field and some countries of the region will receive assistance in setting up their ICT activity statistics in 2004-2005. As a logical follow-up activity to these initiatives, ESCAP plans to create and maintain a web page with links to best practices and other methodological materials.

50. In response to the request that regions provide their statistical inputs before the second phase of the WSIS, a meeting is planned to take place from 11 to 13 October 2004 in

Bangkok, back to back with the intergovernmental Subcommittee on Information, Communications and Space Technologies (13-15 October 2004). Extra-budgetary funds for organizing this meeting are currently being sought.

Statistical Information Services

51. In late 2003 and early 2004, ESCAP undertook a comprehensive review of its statistical information services with a view to making them more focused and user-friendly, internally and externally. The above-mentioned recurrent and non-recurrent statistical publications of ESCAP will be improved according to the conclusions of the review.

52. In connection with the 60th session of the ESCAP Commission in Shanghai in April 2004, two wall charts have been produced: one on the availability of MDG indicators in the region; and the second describing 50 years of development in Asia and the Pacific, using key available indicators. For the first time, Asia-Pacific in Figures has been produced in Chinese and Russian languages, and a five language flyer of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics will be launched at the Shanghai Commission session.

Planned statistics-related events in statistics in 2004-2005

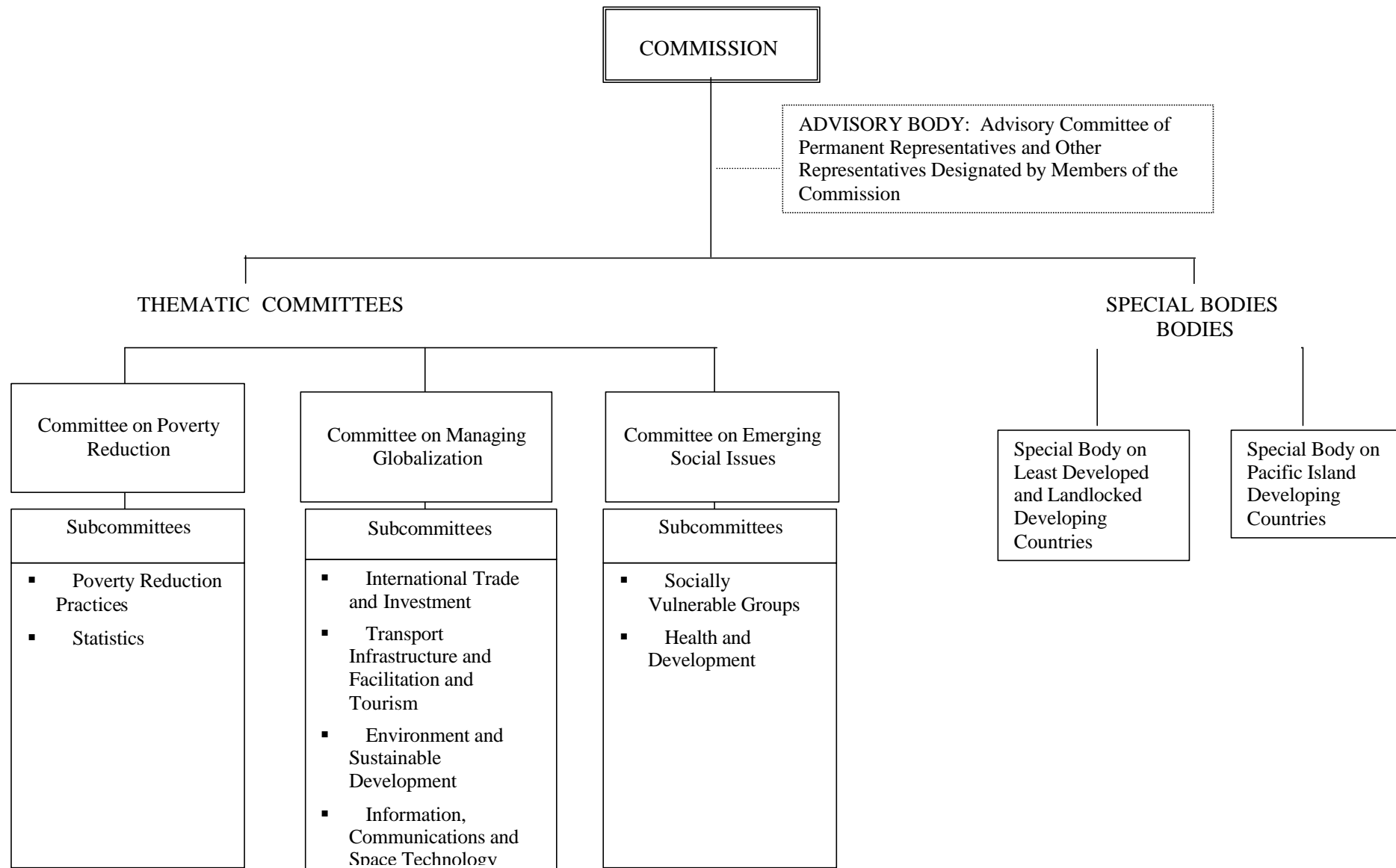
53. Expert group meetings, workshops and other statistical events planned by the ESCAP during 2004/2005 are listed in the following table:

| Dates | Venue | Title |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|
| <u>(2004)</u> | | |
| 14-16 January | Luang Prabang | Second SIAP/UNESCAP Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific |
| 18-20 February | Bangkok | UNESCAP Subcommittee on Statistics, 1st session |
| 11-14 May | Bangkok | UNESCAP/OECD/ADB Workshop on Non-Observed Economy |
| 24-28 May | Bangkok | UNESCAP Project on Disability Statistics: Workshop # 1 |
| June (2 days) | Manila | ICP Asia-Pacific Regional Advisory Board 3 |
| 27-29 September | Bangkok | UNESCAP Project on Disability Statistics: Workshop # 2 |
| 29 September - 1 October | Bangkok | Joint UNESCAP and Washington Group meeting on Disability Measurement |
| 6-8 October | Manila | UNSD/UNESCAP Workshop on Poverty Statistics |
| 11-13 October | Bangkok | Workshop on Measurement of Information Society |
| 11-13 October | Bangkok | Workshop on monitoring implementation of the BMF |

| Dates | Venue | Title |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| November (3 days) | Bangkok or Delhi | Expert Group Meeting on MDG indicators |
| November | Manila | Second ASEAN Task force workshop on classifications |
| December (4 days) | Bangkok | UNSD/UNESCAP Workshop on National Accounts |
| <u>(2005)</u> | | |
| 24-28 January | Bangkok | High-level (APEX) conference of Asia-Pacific statisticians + Third SIAP/UNESCAP Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific |
| 1 st quarter (3 days) | Bangkok | ICP Advocacy Workshop |

* The list may be incomplete and further change can be made to the title, dates or venue of the events. For updates, please see <http://www.unescap.org/stat/meet/techmeet.asp>

Annex 1 ESCAP's current conference structure



MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES: Ministerial conferences on specific issues may be organized on an ad hoc basis

