

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

Expert Group Meeting on Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Indicators in Central Asia
(Astana, Kazakhstan, 5 ó 8 October 2009)

INFORMATION NOTICE NO.1

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In collaboration with UNESCAP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and CIS-STAT, the UNECE aims to increase availability of well-articulated national and regional strategies for producing data on MDG indicators and estimates for Central Asian and other CIS Countries. The 6th tranche of the United Nations Development Account includes a project on "Supporting MDG-based development strategies through integrated regional action". This project includes the organization of one expert group meeting on statistical capacity building for monitoring MDG indicators and one training workshop to build capacity of policy makers and experts to integrate MDG-based strategies in national development frameworks and to produce and use MDG-related indicators and estimates.

2. The UNECE is organizing an expert group meeting on MDG indicators to take place from 5 to 8 October 2009 in Astana, Kazakhstan. It will be held in Conference Room 912, 4th Entry, House of Ministries, 8st Orinbor, Astana. Additional information on the workshop can be found at the following website: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.10.mdg.htm>

II. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

3. Monitoring of progress toward MDGs in Central Asian and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries has highlighted the need for data to be relevant to local and regional information requirements. This expert group meeting, organized in collaboration with UNESCAP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and CIS-STAT, aims to discuss and agree on a common set of additional indicators that are relevant to development challenges of Central Asia. Many countries have incorporated national targets and indicators into their progress monitoring, which may be used as a basis for identifying a set of indicators relevant to this sub-region. Special attention will also be given to identifying disaggregated data that are more relevant to inequality issues in the countries, such as data by geographic characteristics (urban/rural, sub-national areas) and individual variables (age, sex, ethnicity).

III. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting includes both presentations and discussion. The main topics for the meeting are:

- (a) Overview of monitoring progress and development in Central Asia
- (b) The collection and production of MDG-relevant data
- (c) National and international cooperation to bridge discrepancies
- (d) Proposal for additional development indicators and disaggregations relevant to Central Asia
- (e) Improving dissemination and use of MDG-relevant data
- (f) Strengthening national coordination mechanisms and the use of administrative data sources
- (g) Assessment of capacity building needs

IV. PARTICIPATION, ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION FOR THE MEETING

5. MDG focal points from the National Statistical Offices and national focal points for MDG reporting appointed by the government are invited to participate in the meeting. The UNECE is in a position to finance travel and accommodation costs for two participants from each of the following countries: Azerbaijan, The Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; being one representative of the national statistical office and one from a line ministry. Participation of additional participants from these countries or from other countries is encouraged, but will need to be financed from other sources. International organizations involved in MDG reporting and/or statistical capacity building in this region are welcome to attend the meeting at their own expense.

6. All participants must be accredited by the competent authority of their country or international organization. Participants should complete the registration form attached to this notice and return it to the UNECE at your earliest convenience, and not later than **31 August 2009**. The registration form can be returned by email to jessica.gardner@unece.org. According to the information given in the registration form, it can also be returned by fax (+41 22 917 0040).

7. All participants attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. For country specifications, see www.kazakhstan-tourist.com. Applications for visas must be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the UNECE Expert Group Meeting on MDG Indicators for Central Asia. If a letter to facilitate obtaining a visa is needed, please send your request to Administrative Associate Ms. Sholpan Jandayeva at the UNDP agency in Astana, e-mail address sholpan.jandayeva@undp.org or fax +7 717 259 25 40. Please include your passport details in the request.

8. Please present yourself with your passport and the registration form at Conference Room 912, 4th Entry, House of Ministries, 8st Orinbor, Astana, by 1p.m. on 5 October, the first day of the meeting.

V. ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

9. A block reservation will be made for participants to stay at Hotel Mukammal at the address Pobeda Avenue 53/1, Astana. For logistical reasons and in order to encourage international interaction during the training, participants are strongly encouraged to reserve their accommodation in this hotel. Participants are, however, requested to make their own hotel reservations through the following e-mail address bron@mukammal.kz or fax +7 717 230 29 12. For additional information on hotels in Astana, Kazakhstan, please see: http://www.kazakhstan.orexca.com/hotels_astana.shtml

10. UNECE will cover airfare and per diem (DSA) for the funded participants, mentioned above in paragraph 6 for the duration of the meeting, excluding participants from the hosting country. Any other participant(s) will attend at their own costs. During the Training Workshop, the organizers of the Workshop will distribute to the funded participants DSA at the United Nations prevailing rate in Astana (approximately USD 245.00 per day) to cover accommodation, meals and other incidental expenses. If, for any reason, the participant is unable to attend for the full duration of the Workshop, a proportionate reduction in the allowance will be made.

11. UNECE will make arrangements, through the local UNDP office, to issue most direct economy air tickets for UNECE-funded participants to travel from the country of their residence to Astana and return. Do not make any individual air ticket purchases before receiving instructions from the UNECE.

12. Please note that UNECE will not assume responsibility for any other expenditure, including the following:

- É All expenses in the home country incidental to travel abroad, including expenditure for visa, medical examination, inoculations and other such miscellaneous items and internal travel to and from the airport of arrival and departure in the home country;
- É Salary and related allowances for the participants during the period of the meeting;

- É Costs incurred by participants in respect of travel insurance, accident insurance, medical or dental bills or hospitalization fees in connection with their attending the meeting;
- É Compensation in the event of death or disability of participants in connection with their attending the meeting;
- É Any loss or damage of personal property of participants while attending the meeting or losses or damages claimed by third parties as a result of negligence on the part of the participants;
- É Any other expenses of a personal nature, not directly related to the purpose of the meeting.

13. In order to obtain the DSAs, UNECE-funded participants need to submit on the first day of the meeting:

- É A copy of the passport showing personal details, including photo and the immigration stamp in Astana;
- É A copy of the air ticket;
- É Boarding pass(es).

14. Participants are advised to ensure that they have adequate travel and medical insurance for the duration of the meeting.

15. Any questions regarding travel arrangements or other issues concerning the meeting should be addressed to UNECE, Ms. Jessica Gardner, jessica.gardner@unece.org, Tel +41 22 917 2084. For questions regarding registration and travel arrangements please use the contact information given in section VII.

VI. WORKING LANGUAGE AND DOCUMENTATION

16. The working languages of the meeting are English and Russian. There will be simultaneous interpretation English-Russian-English in the meeting to facilitate participation in discussions.

17. Documentation for the meeting will be available at the UNECE web site at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.10.mdg.htm>.

18. Materials will be made available shortly before the meeting. Participants are encouraged to download the documents from the website and bring their own copies to the meeting since they will not be distributed there.

VII. FURTHER INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDANCE

19. For any request concerning the workshop, the following persons in the UNECE Secretariat may be contacted:

Ms. Jessica Gardner

UNECE Statistical Division
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-917-2084 / +41 79 444 5215
Fax: +41-22-917-0040
e-mail: jessica.gardner@unece.org

Mr. David Boko

UNECE Statistical Division
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-917-3644
Fax: +41-22-917-0040
e-mail: david.boko@unece.org