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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**

Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD meeting on management of statistical information systems (MSIS)
(Oslo, 18-20 May 2009)

SHARING ADVISORY BOARD – MANDATE AND MISSION

Prepared by the MSIS Task Force on Software Sharing ¹

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Strategic goals in software sharing and convergence can only successfully be reached through alignment. This is not a technical problem but a managerial one, as such strategic directions and goals only have meaning at a higher level of abstraction and management. A substantial amount of time is needed to reach strategic goals. This implies that structures are needed with a certain amount of continuity. A short-term working party or task force will not be sufficient, therefore the Sharing Advisory Board (SAB) is proposed as a governing body to look after the strategic interests of shared development and convergence of statistical software and business architectures.

II. MANDATE

2. The SAB reports to the Steering Group on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS), and ultimately to the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its Bureau. It therefore derives its legitimacy and mandate from these groups. The SAB will produce an annual work programme for approval by the MSIS Steering Group, and will report on progress to the annual MSIS work sessions and to the Bureau of the CES.

3. The SAB will build on results and work in progress from other projects, particularly the European Union “ESSnet” projects on related topics. The scope of software sharing and collaboration to be achieved is limited to software or tools made or tailored by national or international statistical organizations, that are vital to their statistical processes, and of which they have ownership.

4. The mandate of the SAB will be reviewed every two years by the Bureau of the CES, to ensure that it continues to meet requirements.

¹ Mr Marton Vuksan (Chair - Netherlands), Mr Alistair Hamilton (Australia), Ms Karen Doherty (Canada), Mr Carlo Vaccari (Italy), Mr Rune Gloersen (Norway), Mr Leonhard Maqua (Eurostat), Mr Antonio Consoli (Eurostat), Mr Lars Thygesen (OECD), Mr Valentin Todorov (UNIDO), Mr Steven Vale (Secretariat - UNECE)

III. MISSION

5. The mission of the SAB is to provide strategic direction to international work on the convergence of statistical business architectures and to promote favourable conditions for the sharing and joint development of software tools and components amongst national and international statistical organizations.

IV. OBJECTIVES

6. The objectives of the SAB are:

- To formulate proposals with the goal of promoting harmonization of information systems architectures and to enhance the interoperability and the potential to share components within those architectures;
- To provide governance models for the development and enhancement of statistical software in an environment of collaboration between statistical organisations;
- To provide guidelines and tools to assess new statistical software tools and components, and report to MSIS Work Sessions on the availability of these tools and components for sharing, as well as suitable governance mechanisms for ensuring the future development of recommended tools and components;
- To ensure that tools and components recommended for sharing are made available to all statistical organisations via a suitable portal, and with sufficient documentation and support mechanisms;
- To assist in the improvement of the statistical infrastructure of countries both within and outside the UNECE region as required.