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Purpose and Features of a Global Assessment of the National Statistical System

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The purpose of a global assessment of the national statistical system is to provide a clear picture of the state of development of official statistics in the country. It helps the national authorities to better programme the long-term development of statistics, and also international donors to have a deep knowledge of their institutional and administrative work frame for the programming of statistical cooperation. More specifically, the objectives of a global assessment are:

- To assess the administrative capacity of the country in the field of statistics
- To assess the technical aspects of the statistical system in the country
- To assess the compliance of national statistics with international standards

The global assessment is conducted by one (or two) senior expert(s) with a broad knowledge in official statistics and relevant experience in statistical cooperation. It consists of two country missions of about 10 and 5 working days, respectively, separated by a minimum period of 5 – 6 weeks.

In the first mission, the expert visits the national statistical office, the national bank, and other major producers of official statistics, to discuss and collect information on the state and plans for development of the statistical system. A sample list of topics addressed during the first visit is attached.

After the first visit, a draft report is prepared by the expert and sent to the country for review by persons and institutions concerned. The second mission will permit to complete information and assessment, on the basis of comments made by national statisticians on the first draft of the report. After the second mission the final report is prepared and sent to national statistical authorities for final review and approval.



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Attachment

Global Assessment - Sample List of Topics

- **Legal setting**
 - Statistical law
 - Other legislation, including censuses
 - Statistical council, statistical programme, inter-ministerial consultations, consultations with users
 - Protection of independence
 - Data protection and confidentiality

- **National statistical system**
 - Principles
 - Structure of the system
 - Liaison with research institutes and universities
 - Liaison with the business community
 - Dissemination policies
 - Relations with the central government
 - Relations with local governments
 - Access to administrative records

- **Description of the National Statistical Office**
 - Mission, internal organisation
 - Planning, programming, and priority setting
 - Monitoring of quality
 - Organisation of large-scale surveys
 - Finance and budgeting
 - Staffing, staff recruitment and training
 - Information technology
 - Internal monitoring of performance
 - External accountability

- **Technical part**
 - Classifications
 - Registers (population, business)
 - National accounts
 - Population statistics (censuses, migrations, vital statistics)
 - Household surveys (labour force, household budget)
 - Prices statistics
 - Business statistics (short term, structural statistics)
 - Basic agricultural statistics
 - Education and health statistics
 - Foreign trade statistics
 - Government finance and public debt statistics
 - Monetary and financial statistics
 - Balance of payments statistics

