

# **Final Report**

## **PARIS21/UNESCAP High-Level Forum on Strategic Planning in Statistics for Central Asian Countries**

**17-19 May 2006, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

### **A. Background and Objectives**

1. At the Second International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results held in Marrakech in 2004, aid recipients and donors renewed their cognizance of the crucial role that statistics play in supporting development policies and measuring the impact of interventions. The Roundtable recommended mainstreaming strategic planning of statistical systems and, towards this end, recommended further that developing countries prepare National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). In line with these recommendations, the UNDP approved a project supporting the holding of a series of four sub-regional High-Level Forums in Asia. This Central Asian High-Level Forum is the second of the series.

2. The objectives of the Central Asian Forum were to assess the current status of strategic statistical planning in the participating countries, to identify the successes and constraints being experienced in implementing existing plans, and to consider solutions to those constraints. Towards the end of the Forum, the country participants were asked to identify the steps that their respective countries may wish to take in the next twelve months in order to advance work on their national statistics strategies.

3. The Forum was organized by UNESCAP and PARIS21 in collaboration with UNECE, Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS (CISSTAT) and the Kyrgyz National Statistical Committee (NSC). The NSC assumed responsibility for all local arrangements and provided secretariat support for the duration of the Forum. Financial support was provided by the UNDP–managed Japan Human Resource Development Fund.

4. The Forum was attended by 40 participants from 9 CIS countries, Australia, Mongolia, Sweden, the Embassy of Japan, WHO, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Eurostat, the Department for International Development (DFID), CISSTAT,

UNECE, UNESCAP, and PARIS21. The complete list of participants is given in Annex 1. The agenda is given in Annex 2 and results of the workshop evaluation in Annex 3.

5. On the afternoon of the second day the Forum participants attended the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the NSC.

## **B. Session 1: Opening Session**

6. The Forum was opened by the **Chairman of the Kyrgyz NSC**, Mr Orozmat Abdykalykov, who warmly welcomed all participants and expressed his appreciation to host the Forum.

7. The **First Vice Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic**, Mr Daniyar Usenov, then delivered the keynote speech. Against the backdrop of the changes and challenges experienced since the Tulip revolution in March 2005, Mr Usenov described the role the Kyrgyz NSC is playing in furthering the development of Kyrgyzstan and emphasized that the national leadership understands the importance of statistics in providing information for the implementation of different national programmes, of national laws, and of decisions of the President and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic related to social and economic policies.

8. Over the course of the past twelve years, various reforms have resulted in the current state of the Kyrgyz national statistical system which is regarded as adequate to the needs of the transition period and which corresponds to the main principles of official statistics adopted by the UN Statistics Division. An evidence of this is the formal subscription of the Kyrgyz Republic to IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) in 2004. At the same time, however, many problems related to the accurate reflection of the country's social and economic development situation remain.

9. Ms Haishan Fu, **Chief of UNESCAP's Statistical Development Section**, highlighted in her opening statement that strategic planning for statistical development is a first step in charting the direction that a national statistical system wishes to go over the medium to long-term. It helps specify how to get there, and how to ensure that one continues to progress on the right track. Far more important, however, than the strategic plan document is the planning process itself.

10. Mr Tony Williams briefly traced the origins of **PARIS21** where he serves as **Senior Advisor**. A consortium of countries and multilateral development agencies, PARIS21 acts as catalyst for promoting a culture of evidence-based policy-making and monitoring. It aims to promote more effective dialogue among statistics producers and users through facilitating international events, such as this Forum. PARIS21 has developed NSDS guidelines and advocacy materials to support countries that need and want to develop NSDSs.

11. Mr Petteri Baer, **Regional Adviser of UNECE's Statistical Division**, notified that the participating countries have a long history of co-operation with the UNECE as member countries and users of standards and recommendations, produced and facilitated by UNECE. The importance of standards are gaining importance as the need for comparability as well as for high quality in Official Statistics are increasing with the globalisation process of economies and social relations. Only in the last two months UNECE has in Geneva co-hosted three important international conferences<sup>1</sup>, all producing standards and recommendations for official statistics. Also, this High Level Forum has the task of finding new ways to cope with growing demands from different user groups of statistical information. It is by openness, critical evaluations on the present, openly admitting experienced failures and through interactive discussions that we will find ways to substantial improvements in our work.

12. Mr Youri Ivanov, **Deputy Chairman of CISSTAT**, described the magnitude of the changes that have been necessary in the field of statistics since the beginning of the transition period from a formerly centrally planned economy to a market economy. While great progress has been made already, continued efforts are necessary because new standards appear, old standards are being improved and some important standards are not introduced into practice yet. Mr Ivanov moreover explained that one of the most important functions of CISSTAT is rendering assistance to the CIS countries in introducing international standards into regular practice.

13. H.E. Tatsuhiko Kasai, **Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the Japanese Embassy** in Bishkek, stressed the importance of statistics because they serve as a mirror of the economic situation in a country. CIS countries have always been very active in statistics but the era of transition they are currently experiencing has made it necessary to introduce new methods of statistics. Moreover, due to the rapidly

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<sup>1</sup> (1) A Work Session on statistical metadata, (2) a Conference on National Accounts and update of SNA and (3) a Meeting on Customer Price Indices.

occurring globalization the implementation of global standards is needed. Japan is contributing to the development of statistics by holding seminars in Japan where delegates from CIS countries also participate and by financing meetings such as this Forum.

14. Following the opening statements and the keynote speech, **Tony Williams presented the objectives of the workshop, underlining the case for statistics and the role of strategic planning for strengthening national statistical systems.** While the need for statistics is certainly not new, there has been growing recognition of the need for more and better statistics than before, for a number of reasons. Firstly, there is greater emphasis on evidence-based policy and decision-making – and much of the evidence needed will be statistics. Secondly, the rapid development of more technically sophisticated and data-demanding methods of policy analysis provide new challenges to national statistical systems, which may be unable to provide the statistics needed and new demands may crowd out traditional statistics. Thirdly, advances in information and communication technology have increased the pressure for evidence-based policy-making as governments are drawn into a broader and more intense dialogue with the private sector and civil society, and are increasingly challenged to explain and justify their actions. And fourthly, costs of making faulty policy decisions have increased as higher levels of foreign aid are being directed towards budget support rather than to specific projects, which make it more important that the policy decisions be under-pinned by good statistics and analysis.

15. Statistical development plans may take on many forms and other names, e.g. statistical master plan or strategy, statistical action plan, statistical capacity building strategy, or national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS). An NSDS is an approach to statistical capacity building which covers the whole statistical system, encompassing data production, analysis and use, and all actors in the system, including line ministries. Compared to other approaches, it adds more value to the statistical capacity building process in the sense that, it integrates statistical development into national development policy and strategy processes, it follows best practice in organisational development and management, and it builds from earlier as well as existing statistical capacity processes, including implementation successes and constraints.

## C. Session 2: Strategic Statistical Planning

16. The session began with presentations by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan on their experiences with strategic planning in statistics, followed by a presentation by PARIS21 on key components of strategic planning. Each presentation was followed by a discussion.

17. In accordance with its Law on Statistics, statistical activities in **Azerbaijan** are carried out on the basis of approved plans and programmes. Since 1992, three five-year programmes have been adopted. The current plan will last until 2007. The development of each plan begins with a stock taking exercise by the State Statistical Committee, analyzing the present state of development in all the fields of its activities. Due regard is given to the peculiarities of the transition period (from planned to market economy) as well as the adoption of international standards. The subsequent design of a new multi-annual programme is carried out by the State Statistical Committee in cooperation with leading ministries, agencies and scientific organizations. The draft programme is submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic, which in turn submits it to the President. On the basis of the approved programme, the State Statistical Committee then prepares annual working plans.

18. **Kazakhstan** distinguishes between strategic or long-term, mid-term and annual planning. The current programme which lasts from 2006-2008 was developed over a period of 12 months, based on a comprehensive and carefully crafted new approach to strategy development. Its goal is to improve data quality by introducing the standards of the European Union. Specific tasks include improving coordination; developing and introducing a methodology for adapting the new standards; preparing analytic reports to disseminate the results obtained using the new standards; creating an integrated information system; and international cooperation. To strengthen international cooperation it is envisaged to conduct three international seminars within the 3-year timeframe.

19. From 1992 to 2006 the Government of the **Kyrgyz Republic** has adopted four programmes of statistics. While the first two programmes focused on adapting the former (Soviet) system to the requirements of a market economy, the main objective of the current and the immediately preceding one is to further develop the national statistical system. The present programme covers the period from 2006 to 2009. A Strategic Master Plan for the same time period has also been prepared, jointly with the World Bank, and was recently approved by the Kyrgyz Government. Harmonization

and integration of main concepts and definitions applied by EU countries into the statistical practice of the Kyrgyz Republic, development of main indicators comparable at international level, introduction of new IT of data capture, processing and transmission, and improvement of the organizational structure of the national statistics system are the main directions of statistics development for this period.

20. With a grant received from the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, **Tajikistan** has developed a Multi-Annual Integrated Statistical Programme which was approved by its Government in March 2005. The programme was developed by a consultant and a specially set-up working group, in consultation with experts of the Statistical Committee, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy and Trade and National Bank of Tajikistan. The main objective is to carry out a comprehensive reform of the statistical system in order to meet the requirements of the government, business and the community with regards to high-quality statistical information. Data should be internationally comparable and increasingly used for policy making.

21. During the discussion getting users to articulate their needs and prioritization was identified as a challenge, particularly when many agencies are involved. To achieve better coordination between agencies Kazakhstan, for example, has established various taskforces. Kyrgyzstan also tries to solve disputes through joint discussions and if this is unsuccessful an arbitrator such as someone from the President's office is sought. Summarising the discussion, Haishan Fu noted that other challenges included sectoral data, producing quarterly data, census of population, classifications, registers, and transport and agricultural production costs.

22. Regarding international cooperation Tajikistan expressed their preference to receive assistance by organizations in fields where these are particularly strong. For example, Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TICA) recently offered them to train 50 people in areas where TICA has substantial experience. The experience of Tajikistan has also shown that high-level support is not only important to secure national funding but international assistance, too. The vocal support of the Tajik president caused a number of international organizations to offer assistance to the NSO. In Moldova, the NSO actively coordinates with donors to avoid the duplication of efforts. Based on the country presentations, three issues were identified: (1) cross-government relationships and co-ordination, and inclusion of sectoral information in strategic planning; (2) support for strategic plans, both nationally and from donors (technical and financial); and (3) coherence of donor programmes and

the extent to which international agencies can fit their programmes within national strategic plans.

**23. Frances Harper of the PARIS21 Secretariat presented an overview of key steps in strategic planning, and of the NSDS roll-out,** based on the guidelines and advocacy materials describing the framework, essentials steps and enabling environments for the preparation and implementation of an NSDS. Two necessary conditions for NSDS to succeed, or any statistical development plan for that matter, are high-level political support or commitment by the government and effective leadership of the national statistical system. With these in place, work on the components or steps in preparing an NSDS may succeed.

24. The cost of implementing NSDS must be estimated. In doing so, it should be kept in mind that the total cost estimate needs to take account of continuing of the existing activities and services of the national statistical system and of the expenses incurred from new activities proposed in the NSDS. The funding sources should also be identified. Last but not least, the process followed in preparing the NSDS should engender a high sense of ownership of the end-product by the government.

25. In the subsequent discussion participants pointed out that while countries should learn from others' experiences they also need to take their own particular circumstances into account; that many NSOs in the sub-region regularly provide data to government departments but still need to build relationships with other users; and that it is necessary to both raise awareness among users about available data as well as make greater efforts to better understand user needs.

#### **D. Session 3: Addressing user needs within available resources**

26. The session began with presentations by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Russia on their experiences in building relations with users of statistical information, followed by a presentation of Sweden. Finally a presentation of by UNECE summed up the discussion and provided a number of examples on addressing user needs based on the Finnish and Albanian NSOs' experience. After the presentations a lively discussion on dissemination and marketing issues, target groups of statistical information and different ways of contact building, pros and cons of chargeable dissemination activities and the experience to interact with other user categories than the "traditional" governmental users followed.

27. Based on the second and third five-year program of official statistics' improvements in the **Azerbaijan** republic, the Azerbaijan NSO has, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, developed a set of guidelines for the preparation and dissemination of statistical data. These guidelines include, among others the following:

- Guarantee of confidentiality of the data received from the respondents;
- Study of the consumer demand and determination of necessary information;
- Preparation of high quality information meeting the international requirements;
- Securing strict scientific and impartial approach to the preparation of information;
- Comprehensive meeting the requirements (interests) of the users in the volume and character of information being submitted to them;
- Access of the users to the information sources;
- Timeliness and accuracy of submission of information to the users.

28. The interaction with users in Azerbaijan builds on regular press releases and conferences, access of the public to a central Statistical Library, active dissemination of statistical information through campaigns making publications and internet known to existing and potential users. An important tool used in Azerbaijan is a Microsoft Access based Customer Database, which gives us the possibility to do the contact building work in a systematic and growing way. The development work also encounters difficulties, e.g. to find and keep qualified IT personnel to make use of internet and GIS services in conditions of low salaries.

29. **Kazakhstan** presented the three basic principles the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan's Statistical office has in building relations with users:

- Equal access to basic statistical information by all users, with the goal of having general aggregated statistical indicators available for the public on a free of charge basis;
- Maximum meeting of statistical information requirements of all user groups, with the goal of meeting the needs with ready made publications and services on a paid basis at fixed prices, covering the costs of their production
- Preparation of information services based on specific requirements of concrete users on a chargeable basis, at prices covering the expenditures on data preparation;

- Constant improvement of quality of statistical products and services.

30. As channels for dissemination of statistical information the following are used by the NSO of Kazakhstan:

- Subscriptions, bookshops, Publication and Services Catalogue
- Electronic database: (a) of publications, (b) of historic statistical series
- Internet – the web site: [www.stat.kz](http://www.stat.kz)
- Mass media – 8-10 press conferences and 3000 press releases annually
- Reference Service – Services provided by the Computer Centre of the Agency
- The Statistical library
  - Annual Open Doors Day, now regularly in September
  - User Conferences
  - Questionnaires of users' opinions and feedback
- The company KazInform, working in close co-operation with the Statistical Agency.

31. The NSO of Kazakhstan has identified eight main user groups of statistical information. It is now in a process of producing a Mailing Register of statistic and analytic information.

32. The efforts made provide results, which can be measured by clearly increased interaction with users. The dissemination of publications has grown from 18 400 copies in the year 1999 to 49 600 copies in 2005. The number of enquiries processed on a contract basis for users by the Reference Service has grown from 1 538 in the year 2001 to 7 223 in 2005. The Statistical Library, having a stock of 4 500 copies of domestic and foreign statistical editions, serves now on the average 30 users daily.

33. **Moldova** presented its strongly growing activities in the dissemination and relation building fields mentioning its recent subscription to the SDDS standard of IMF, its activities in making user surveys and the recent elaboration of a Strategic Plan for Marketing and Dissemination. A fairly new way of contact building has been participation in book fairs and commercial exhibitions. Moldova has already some years made use of a Microsoft Access –based Customer Database which have been of substantial assistance in the campaigning of statistical information materials.

34. Together with a certain level of success in dissemination activities a number of obstacles and difficulties can be observed. The users and especially state bodies

have not yet realized that the role and functions of statistical authorities in a market economy differ greatly from those, which were characteristic for a centrally planned society, especially in regard to the level of details, timeliness, reliability and confidentiality of statistical information. A lack of high confidence of the users in statistical data is prevailing, partly resulting from insufficient knowledge of the users and partly from a traditional low confidence in the state bodies. The low level of information technology development for its part also produces serious difficulties for the NSO and limits the possibilities to use electronic dissemination forms to the users in Moldova.

35. A strong development effort for enhancing interaction with users is today put on technological development in the Moldovan NSO. Developments of information technologies include:

- Creation of the system of metadata;
- Introduction of PC-AXIS software;
- Creation of a centralized data bank (Data Warehouse);
- Introduction of Internet technology for electronic collection of data from respondents.

36. The NSO of the **Russian Federation**, Rosstat, gave an extensive presentation on the legal framework within which the dissemination of statistical information takes place in the Russian Federation. Rosstat provides the following kinds of information services to the users:

- Presentation of official statistical information;
- Presentation of the data of bookkeeping reports;
- Information and statistical services on the requests of the users.

37. Reforming of economy has radically changed the opinions of the users about statistical information. Thus, in the period before the reform, the circle of users was limited mainly to state management bodies and scientific organizations. Mass media had, mainly, the functions of informing the population on main achievements of the national economy. Liberalization of the economic system has caused a substantial expansion of the circle of users of statistical information.

38. In 2004 Rosstat responded to 1 554 requests of the users of the data, including 29 requests from the government users interested in information on Russia as whole.

In addition, the information on more than 4 million of organizations was provided to the federal government bodies, commercial structures and private persons at their request.

39. Rosstat provides data on a free of charge basis to:

- general government bodies of the Russian Federation, organizations created under the auspices of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Bank of Russia, state extra budgetary funds;
- the users of Internet, who have the on-line access to the data on major indicators of socio-economic development of Russia, through the Web-site of the Federal State Statistics Service.

Other users are provided with official statistical information for payment.

40. Rendering paid information services is carried out through subordinate organizations of Rosstat, which have the right to sell statistical products. These are:

- the Main Interregional Centre of Federal Statistics Service on Processing and Dissemination of Statistical Information and
- the Autonomous Non-Commercial Organization – Information and Publishing Center “Statistics of Russia”. “Statistics of Russia” disseminates printed statistical publications and their electronic versions. An Internet-shop has been put into operation, which gives an on-line access to clients to get familiar with statistical publications and their brief annotations, as well as prices. They can also order publications through this shop. Apart from that the clients have the opportunity to get, on contract terms, an access to electronic versions of the publications placed on the Web server. Along with that the access to the databases is provided with setting passwords to differentiate the level of access to the data and to ensure protection of information from non-sanctioned access.

41. **Sweden** notified that the task of dissemination is included in the office’s Mission statement. Dissemination is a wide concept. It is not only how we distribute statistics. It has to include also how statistics is:

- used,
- understood,

- interpreted and
- how relevant it is to the users.

42. In the presentation of Sweden it was emphasized that NSOs do not only have the responsibility to produce statistics of a good quality but also to

- make statistics known,
- make statistics available,
- make statistics understandable,
- make statistics useful in society.

43. Ways to perform these tasks, practiced in Sweden and other Nordic countries are, among others, setting up User councils, organising User training, seminars and conferences and making use of the internet.

44. User councils help to provide a better understanding between producers of statistical information and the users' perspectives. They help in capacity building for both users and producers. The interaction usually results in improved statistical services as well as the development of more relevant and user-friendly statistics. And – all this results in having more satisfied users of statistical information.

45. **UNECE**, presiding Session 3 of the Forum, provided conclusions in a summary presentation, focusing on the importance of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics also for dissemination questions. Professional independence and use of international standards are crucial for providing good statistical quality. A good combination of non-chargeable basic statistical information services together with chargeable services for more sophisticated and customer specified statistical products and services were recommended to be developed.

46. The importance of accumulating a Customer Database containing contact information to regular and heavy users of statistical information was presented as a key factor for systematic work in building relations with users. The Customer Relationship Management approach can be very helpful to the NSOs in analysing their present services and even more in the development work for an emerging service ability. It is important to segment customers, because different customer groups usually will need different kinds of statistical services. The CRM approach is helpful also, because collecting the scattered information of customer relations into a Customer Database will provide purchase history information, needed for both

customer analyses and for building a system of standing orders for regular and heavy users of statistical information.

47. As all statistical information can be digitalized, Internet is a powerful tool for dissemination. However, only putting information available on a NSO's web site does not guarantee, that the information will be used on a broader scale – it gives the NSO only a potential possibility that this will occur. In a word of information overflow active marketing and dissemination activities are of great importance and they are efficient only when they are well targeted. As only “used statistical information is useful statistical information” investments in strategic planning on marketing and dissemination issues are needed. In today's word there are many other user groups of statistical information than the traditional state authorities, which historically and by tradition have been important initiators for producing statistical information.

48. National statistical offices should be perceived as important national information providers working in good harmony with internationally developed and accepted standards and classifications, thus guaranteeing the high quality and comparability of the information provided. Concrete examples of customer-oriented activities were provided, using as examples accumulated experience both from Finland and emerging experience from Albania. One of the most important factors in the development of good service ability is the art of building as set of interaction possibilities with different categories of users and the art of listening.

#### **E. Session 4: Next steps in strategic planning**

49. Each country was invited to consider, within their delegation, what possible next steps they would take to move their respective strategic statistical planning process forward. The purpose of this exercise was to provide an opportunity for the country delegations to brain-storm on what they might contemplate as useful next steps. They were then asked to present these steps at the end of the session.

50. The country presentations, where available in written form, have been included into Annexes 3 and 4<sup>2</sup>. Some common themes coming up in the discussion included:

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<sup>2</sup> Additional material can be found on the webpages of PARIS21 ([www.paris21.org](http://www.paris21.org)) and UNESCAP ([www.unescap.org/stat/](http://www.unescap.org/stat/)).

- The need to strengthen coordination within the national statistical system and to improve inter-sectoral linkages
- The demand for technical and financial assistance, including training
- Advocacy - an area where greater focus is needed, not only advocacy for statistics, but for strategic planning
- Strengthen user-producer dialogue (users in government and beyond) in order to identify needs and priorities
- Implementation of the 2010 population census round
- Review and revision of statistical legislation
- Development of methodology in specific subject areas, such as: input-output analysis, gender statistics, quarterly statistics, data management, the use of Geographical Information Systems in presenting statistical information and methodological questions on the informal / non-observed economy.

## **F. Session 5: Conclusions and Recommendations**

51. Before the final conclusion and recommendations of the Forum, international agencies gave an overview of their work, and on how they could support countries in their strategic statistical planning.

- **HMN** gave a brief outline of the background of the network, its goals and objectives. Also described was the framework HMN have developed to assist countries improve their health information systems, including the links with NSDSs.
- Strategic planning could be an important component of **Eurostat's** latest TACIS support project. There is also recognition that wider EU financed programmes for Central Asia (such as those to improve regional cooperation, poverty reduction and improvement of state governance) require improved statistics, so there could be opportunities for countries to access some of these funds also.
- Knowledge of **World Bank** (WB) mechanisms is widespread and quite successful in this region, and the WB is involved in the development of strategic plans in many countries (including through the provision of consultants and sharing of advice and knowledge). They also outlined the funding instruments available to countries, including the STATCAP loan (for which a Statistical Master Plan is necessary), and the Trust Fund for Statistical

Capacity Building, which can be used to fund the costs of designing an NSDS..

- **Statistics Sweden** has long experience in providing TA on many of the issues raised in the Forum (e.g. on user-producer relations, coordination of producers, strengthening management, training). Most of their support is long term (2-3 years), with the funding coming from SIDA.
- **UNECE** drew attention to various works on methodology and drawing up of international standards. Stressed the importance of countries participating in this work, and drawing attention to the problems they are facing. The expertise within UNECE on preparing statistical legislation, performing Global Assessments on national statistical systems and their work on measuring the non-observed economy was also highlighted. Attention was also drawn to the new UN Development Account project, administered by UNECE, in the framework of which new steps in three areas of building statistical capacity in Central Asian countries are foreseen to be made: (1) Population and Housing Censuses, (2) Statistics on the Health Status of the population and (3) Non-observed economy.
- **CIS-STAT** would support increased cooperation and communication of these issues in the region. Stressed the importance of ensuring no overlap or duplication of efforts, and of achieving coordination.
- **UNESCAP's** support includes a regional adviser who could support statistical capacity building work in countries. Also, they are developing support for population censuses (guidelines, implementation, data management etc). There is a project to help improve collection, analysis and use of data on informal sector and informal employment, and considerable work on measuring disability in Asia and the Pacific. Within the framework of the Project Working Group on Statistics of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs), UNESCAP is working closely with UNECE to strengthen statistical capacity in the sub-region.

52. In her concluding remarks, **Haishan Fu** thanked participants and co-organisers. It was clear from the presentations and discussions over the three days that planning has been in practice in this region for many years, and has been evolving as the political and economic environment changed. It was also clear that countries are at

different stages in their plans, and experience varies significantly in terms of scope and process. Economic statistics is strong in this region, but we can also see the growing importance of social statistics. It was hoped that all countries' strategies will evolve into comprehensive plans which also include institutional issues, such as legislation, management, training etc. The use of self-assessment tools or peer reviews may be useful as countries take this process forward.

53. In terms of follow up after the Forum, the organizers agreed to reflect on the issues discussed and follow up with each participating country to assess how they can best offer support, particularly on how they might help facilitate technical and financial assistance. Some activities which the organizers could help with are:

- Advocacy - organization of user-producer workshops
- The promotion of producer-producer coordination
- Technical coordination (e.g. supporting the involvement of countries in the development of international standards and classifications)
- Training, for example through PARIS21's task team on training. UNESCAP will also consider how to help countries meet their training needs, and how to ensure better coordination of training, involving SIAP.

54. **Tony Williams** spoke of how the Forum had highlighted the wealth of experience and achievements already in this region. There is a great spirit of cooperation and determination by countries, as well as opportunities presented by increased national and international resources for statistics. But there are challenges ahead. It is difficult to balance all the needs for statistical capacity building with all the opportunities available, but the responsibility for doing so, and for coordinating this, rests with the countries themselves. The Forum has given us all a better understanding of each other and he hoped that this co-operation would continue.

55. He then expressed his appreciation to country delegations and international partners for their participation; to Japan and UNDP for funding the Forum; to UNESCAP, UNECE and CIS-STAT for co-organizing; and to our hosts, the Kyrgyz NSC, for their efficient organization and very generous hospitality.

56. The **Chairman of the Kyrgyz NSC** then formally closed the Forum. He expressed his gratitude to all participants for their input into what had been a memorable and helpful Forum. He thanked NSC colleagues and the interpreters for

their excellent work both before and during the Forum, and ended by wishing all participants good health, wellbeing and success.

## **Annex 1**

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

19 May 2006

PARTNERSHIP IN STATISTICS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21 CENTURY (PARIS21)  
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE  
PACIFIC

PARIS21/ESCAP High-Level Forum on Strategic Planning in Statistics for Central Asian  
17-19 May 2006  
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Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS (CISSTAT)	Mr Youri Ivanov, Deputy Chairman, Moscow  Mr Vladimir Shevchenko, Head, Administration Department, Moscow

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## OBSERVERS

Mr Levon Mirzoyan, Vice President, National Statistical Service of RA, Yerevan, Armenia

Ms Irina Kostevich, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Statistics and Analysis, Minsk, Belarus

Mr George Goradze, Staff Manager, Department for Statistics, Ministry for Economic Development, Tbilisi, Georgia

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Mr Igor Uliyanov, Deputy Head, ROSSTAT, Moscow, Russian Federation

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**PARIS21 SECRETARIAT**

Mr Tony Williams	Senior Policy Advisor
Ms Frances Harper	Regional Statistics Advisor
Mr Eric Bense	Project Officer

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**ESCAP SECRETARIAT**

Ms Haishan Fu	Chief, Statistics Development Section, Statistics Division
Mr Wei Liu	Associate Statistician, Statistics Development Section, Statistics Division
Mr Joern Geisselmann	Consultant, Statistics Development Section, Statistics Division

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## Annex 2

### AGENDA

**Overall Chair: National Statistical Committee (NSC) of the Kyrgyz Republic**

<b>Wednesday, 17 May 2006</b>			
<i>Session 1</i>			
<i>Theme: Opening Session</i>			
<i>Chair: Mr. Orozmat Abdykalykov – Chairman, NSC of Kyrgyz Republic</i>			
<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
08:30	09:00	<i>Registration</i>	
09:00		<i>Opening</i>	Mr. Orozmat Abdykalykov – Chairman, NSC of Kyrgyz Republic
		<b>Keynote Speech</b>	Mr Daniyar Usenov, First Vice Prime Minister, Kyrgyz Republic
		<b>Opening Addresses</b>	CIS-STAT, UNECE, UNESCAP, PARIS21, Japan
10:30	11:00	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
11:00	11:30	<b>Presentation: Why Statistics? Why Strategic Planning?</b>	PARIS21
11:30	12:30	<b>Discussion</b>	
12:30	14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
<i>Session 2</i>			
<i>Theme: Strategic Statistical Planning</i>			
<i>Chair: UNESCAP</i>			
14:00	16:00	<b>Presentation: Experiences with Strategic Planning (20 min each)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Azerbaijan</li> <li>▪ Kazakhstan</li> <li>▪ Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>▪ Tajikistan</li> </ul>	Country Delegations
16:00	16:15	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	

16:15	17:00	<b>Observations and Discussion</b>	
17:00	17:30	<b>Presentation: Key components of strategic planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High-level commitment</li> <li>▪ Assessment and meeting user needs</li> <li>▪ Vision</li> <li>▪ Action planning</li> <li>▪ Funding</li> <li>▪ Implementation</li> </ul>	PARIS21
17:30	18:00	<b>Discussion</b>	
18:00		<b>Administrative Issues</b>	UNESCAP
19:00		<i>Reception/ Dinner</i>	

**Thursday, 18 May 2006**

**Session 3**

**Theme: Addressing User Needs within Available Resources**

**Chair: UNECE**

<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
09:00	10:00	<b>Presentations:</b> Country experiences in building relations with different categories of users of statistical information (two examples)	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan Moldova & Russia
10:00	10:30	<b>Discussion</b>	
10:30	11:00	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
11:00	11:30	<b>Presentations:</b> Experiences of other countries and agencies in addressing user needs (1-2 examples)	Statistics Sweden
11:30	12:00	<b>Discussion</b>	
12:00	13:00	<b>Preparations for session 4: Individual Country Group work</b>	PARIS21 & UNESCAP

***National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyzstan  
hosting a celebration of its 80th Anniversary***

**Friday, 19 May 2006**

***Session 4***

***Theme: Next Steps in Strategic Planning***

***Chair: PARIS21***

<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
09:00	10:30	<b>Individual Country Group work: Next Steps in Strategic Planning</b>	
10:30	10:45	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
10:45	12:15	<b>Feedback from group work and discussion</b>	Country Delegations
12:15	13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	

***Session 5***

***Theme: Conclusions and Recommendations***

***Chair: CIS-STAT***

13:30	15:30	<b>How Can the International Community Help?</b>	International Institutions/ PARIS21
15:30	16:00	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
16:00	16:30	<b>Workshop conclusions and next steps</b>	UNESCAP
16:30	17:00	<b>Discussion</b>	
17:00		<b>Closing remarks</b>	CIS-STAT, UNECE, UNESCAP, PARIS21, Kyrgyz Republic

## **Annex 3**

### **Azerbaijan's perspective on strategic planning of statistical programmes:**

- Population census
- Input-Output table production
- Survey on shadow economy
- Labour force survey
- Household survey on use of free time
- Training of staff both at central office and regional offices

## Annex 4

***Strategic master-plan, structure and  
main directions of development of state  
statistical and information system***

**D. Baijumanov**  
**First deputy chairman of the NSC of KR**

***Master-plan and its structure***

- Strategy of statistics development
- Current state of the statistical system and review of results
- Analyses of strengths and weaknesses
- Main directions of strategic development
- Programme of implementation

### ***Strategy of statistics development***

Integration of statistics into implementation of state and international programmes;  
Key role of information support to CDF and PRSP;  
Improvement of organization and methodology in order to produce high quality, relevant and timely data  
Information provision of users  
Use of modern IT

### ***Current state of statistical system***

- Statistical law and level of independence;
- Data confidentiality;
- The NSC, internal organization;
- Annual and perspective programmes of activities;
- System of registers and classifications;
- Mechanisms of coordination of statistical activity

### ***Review of achieved results***

- Technical and technological policy of data collection;
- Data dissemination policy;
- Methodology of data development;
- Economic statistics;
- Social statistics;
- Regional statistics

### ***Analyses of strengths and weaknesses***

- Institutional character
- Legislation
- Quality management
- System of statistical indicators
- Sampling surveys
- Technical and technological policy
- Data dissemination policy
- Regional statistics
- Organizational structure of statistical services

### ***Main directions of strategic development***

- Legislation
- Procedures of data quality provision
- Introduction of international standards
- Data and metadata management
- Strategy of development of statistical information systems
- Working with respondents and users of statistics
- Human resources management, improvement of organization structure

### ***Programme of implementation***

- Programme of implementation was prepared by:
  - Main activities and directions
  - Form of implementation
  - Terms of implementation
  - Main implementers
- Quarterly monitoring and analyses of actions