MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on cooperation in statistical activities

between

THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

and

THE INTERSTATE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (hereinafter UNECE) and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (hereinafter CIS-STAT),

considering their mutual interest in international cooperation for improving national statistical systems on the basis of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as adopted by UNECE in 1992, and other international standards,

taking into account the coordinating function of UNECE in developing statistical systems in its member States,

taking into account the function of CIS-STAT in coordinating activities of statistical services in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and

recognizing the importance of coordination of efforts in assisting the CIS countries in the field of statistics and exchanging information on related technical cooperation projects,

have agreed on the following:

ARTICLE 1
Objectives of cooperation

(i) To assist the CIS countries in the development of a comprehensive system of internationally comparable statistical indicators in the most cost-effective way and with a reduced reporting burden on respondents;

(ii) To improve the methodological basis of statistics;

(iii) To improve methods of dissemination of statistical information to regional and international users, including regional and international databases.

ARTICLE 2
Areas of cooperation

(i) Development of statistical methodology and methods of collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information taking into account the needs and statistical capabilities of the CIS countries;

(ii) Assisting national statistical services of the CIS countries in the application of international standards;
(iii) Participation of CIS-STAT representatives in the work of teams of specialists established under the Conference of European Statisticians, such as the Steering Committee on National Accounts;

(iv) Rendering technical assistance to the CIS countries in the field of statistics to strengthen their statistical capacity;

(v) Coordination of the work programmes of the UNECE Statistical Division and CIS-STAT on the collection of data and improvement in the exchange of statistical data and publications.

ARTICLE 3
Forms of cooperation

(i) Organization of joint workshops and other training for specialists of national statistical services of the CIS countries;

(ii) Development of guidelines for implementing international recommendations and statistical standards in the specific circumstances of the CIS countries;

(iii) Development of training materials for use in the technical assistance activities, including preparation of materials describing good statistical practices in the context of the CIS countries;

(iv) Regular exchange of information on technical assistance activities for the CIS countries in the field of statistics;

(v) Mutual exchange of statistical data and publications;

(vi) Translation into Russian of the documents on methodological matters and organization of statistics;

(vii) Coordination of data collection to avoid duplication of work and to reduce reporting burden;

(viii) Harmonization of questionnaires used for the collection of data from CIS statistical services and harmonization of indicators derived from the collected data;

(ix) Involvement of CIS-STAT specialists in the work of the groups of experts and other international forums organized by the UNECE Statistical Division;

(x) Invitation of CIS-STAT specialists for the workshops conducted by the UNECE Statistical Division and invitation of specialists of the UNECE Statistical Division for the workshops organized by CIS-STAT;

ARTICLE 4
Resources

UNECE and CIS-STAT will undertake steps to raise funds in support of the activities identified in this Memorandum. This may include advocacy and promotional activities in the CIS countries to assist national statistical services in obtaining the resources required for a successful implementation of their work programmes, and coordination of actions to obtain financial support from the regional and international donor community.

ARTICLE 5
Entry in force

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon signature of the two Parties and will be in force during three years. It can be extended for another three year period by mutual
consent. The Memorandum may be terminated by any Party by notice to the other Party at least three months prior to the expiration date.

Signed in two copies in English and Russian.

Geneva, 16.6.2010  Moscow, 8. мун. 2010

For the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:

Jan Kubiš
Executive Secretary

For the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States:

Vladimir Sokolin
Chairman