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

Fiftieth plenary session  
(Paris, 10-12 June 2002)

**MATTERS THAT THE BUREAU DECIDED SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE  
ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE**

**(EXCERPTS FROM THE INTEGRATED PRESENTATION)**

**Introduction**

1. In this year's version of the Integrated Presentation some new headings of sections of each Programme Element are used, such as "Goal", "Issues and problems" and "Strategic medium-term objectives". The Secretariat has introduced these innovations in an attempt to make the presentation clearer and easier to read. The Bureau reviewed the Integrated Presentation at its February 2002 meeting and endorsed it for review by the Conference. This document brings together into a single document the list of matters that the Bureau decided should be brought to the attention of the Conference at the 2002 plenary session. It is a compilation of the various items that are listed throughout the Integrated Presentation under the headings "Goal" and "Attention of the Conference is drawn to" sections of each Programme Element in the Integrated Presentation. Material in this document is presented for each field of statistics separately, and listed following the same sequence of fields of statistics that are presented in the Integrated Presentation.

2. The Conference is invited to consider the various issues listed in this document that the Bureau decided should be brought to the attention of the Conference at the plenary session. In addition, under this agenda item the Conference is expected to:

- analyse the implications of the matters to which the Bureau called the attention of the Conference on the programme of Work of the Conference;
- identify issues or suggestions that through the Bureau should be referred to the attention of other organisations whose activities are reflected in the Integrated Presentation;
- identify issues on which the Bureau should focus in the next round of review of the Integrated Presentation, with a view to proposing concrete and practical follow-up suggestions;

- adopt and approve a prioritisation of the Conference work programme (see CES/2002/5) for transmission to the Commission's Group of Experts on the Programme of Work, as the Commission requires all the ECE PSBs to do.

3. It is anticipated that discussion on any of the issues listed in this document (or on any other issues that are associated with the Integrated Presentation) would take place towards the end of the Conference's review of the Integrated Presentation (see agenda item 3).

### **Programme Activity 1: Organisation and Operation of Statistical Services**

This part of the Programme is concerned with the challenges national statistical systems are faced with on the one hand in relation to pressures for increased and more co-ordinated activities at the international level, and on the other hand with respect to the growing demand for local and regional information in sub-national statistical systems. Statistical activities are strongly affected by the major policy trends taking place in the ECE region, i.e. the enlargement of the European Union, the transition to the market economy in central Europe and the CIS, and the consolidation of the transatlantic dialogue between Europe and North America.

#### **1.2 MANAGEMENT AND POLICY ISSUES OF DIRECT CONCERN TO THE PRESIDENTS OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES**

**Goal:** That relationships among the top management level of the national statistical institutes as well as contact with the management of international statistical organisations be efficient.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- The issue of statistical data dissemination policies and practices adopted by the various NSOs and international organisations.

#### **1.3 COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION IN THE ECE REGION**

**Goal:** That Transition Countries have mature, stable and adequate statistical infrastructure suitable for their needs, that they receive advice and assistance from the international statistical community in applying them and that they adhere to international statistical standards and norms.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- The investment needed to achieve successfully the accelerated EU enlargement, which foresees the integration of 10 new Member States in 2004.
- Further activities to achieve comparability of CIS statistics with the statistical data of the other countries in the region.
- Completion of the work on population censuses in the CIS countries.
- Increased involvement and active participation of the CITs in the plenary sessions of the CES and in the CES work programme.

### **Programme activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues**

There is a growing need to share experience and identify good practise in the application to official statistics of the new tools and techniques provided by technological change, the e-economy and the information society. Management in statistical offices of information and communication technology (ICT) requires a strategic and comprehensive stance in developing pertinent programmes and policies for improving the collection, processing and dissemination of official statistics. The major issue of the work in this area is the development of standard classifications, methods, norms and metadata concepts as well as other tools that allow national and international statistical activities to be fully integrated in and adapted to the rapidly changing new ITC environment, and especially to

the growing role of the Internet. Data confidentiality, accessibility, timeliness, coherence and relevance become the key issues in what is at stake in this process.

## **2.1 MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Goal:** That the benefits of information and communication technology (ICT) be harnessed to the greatest extent possible in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- The need to integrate better geographical information systems (GIS) in statistical production.
- The impact of e-government initiatives on statistics.
- The international statistical databases developed in Nordic countries.
- The increased tendency in sharing IT infrastructure.

## **2.2 STATISTICAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING**

**Goal:** That the benefits of ICT be harnessed to the greatest extent possible in the collection and processing of statistical data.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- The creation of a EU statistical confidentiality environment as a key element for strategies and policies on the national level.
- Methods to access a restricted set of information and restricted access to the information in an effort to fight terrorism.
- Methods to access microdata for research purposes.

## **2.3 DISSEMINATION AND INTERCHANGE OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

**Goal:** That the benefits of ICT be harnessed to the greatest extent possible in the dissemination and interchange of statistical information

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- The rapid growth of the availability of data on the Internet highlights the wide range of data dissemination policy issues that need addressing across the whole ECE area, such as the secondary distribution of statistics, copyright and licensing, advertising and marketing, user needs analysis, and user education. The experience and expertise of the EU in this area is invaluable.
- The progress on the SDMX project chaired by IMF, in which EU, OECD, UNSD and other international organisations participate.

## **2.4 STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATIONS**

**Goal:** The world-wide implementation of single statistical classification standards in each area of statistics.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- The effort made by Statistics Canada, the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática of Mexico, the United States Bureau of the Census and Eurostat on the convergence of industrial classifications NAICS/NACE.
- The revision of ISIC.

## **2.5 STATISTICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Goal:** A continuing programme of productive and relevant research and development, whose results are disseminated widely.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- The increased and widespread implementation of ICT calls for new data and meta-data modelling.
- Research in the area of data modelling is lacking and should be given high priority.

## **2.6 GEOGRAPHICAL AND REGIONAL DATA**

**Goal:** That geographical information standards are universally adopted and that geographically based information is disseminated as widely and efficiently as possible.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- There needs to be closer co-operation among National Statistical Offices, national mapping agencies and national administrative systems if the availability and comparability of spatial information is to be improved.

## **2.7 HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Goal:** That personnel involved in statistical work should be appropriately trained and that adequate systems exist for the on-going training and development of staff.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- The Task Force on Human Resources (Eurostat and National Statistical Institutes of EU Member States) dealing with aspects of common concern and interest in the field of human resource management, among which promoting exchanges of staff not only with Eurostat but amongst the member institutes (in connection with the TES Task Force).

## **2.8 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS**

**Goal:** To identify best measures for sustainable development; develop indicators or framework to evaluate sustainable development.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Necessity for active cooperation of NSOs in developing measures for sustainable development.
- Evaluate the follow-up of the Johannesburg Summit on sustainable development.

### **Programme Activity 3: Economic Statistics**

This Programme Activity focuses on activities related to the development of standards and methods in various areas of economic statistics carried out by supra-national and international organisations. A number of manuals and handbooks are illustrated. It is worth mentioning that most of these handbooks and manuals are produced collectively by several international organisations, through inter-secretariat working groups and task forces.

Emphasis is also placed on international co-operation and technical assistance to countries in transition, and particularly to the CIS and countries in the Balkan region.

## **3.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS**

**Goal:** That there exists the full range of high quality national accounts data produced according to SNA/ESA standards for all ECE countries with lengthy time-series.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Future action in joint data collection (concerns transition economies): ECE and Eurostat both collect national accounts data from EU candidate countries. Outstanding issues of timeliness, data detail, transmission formats and reliability need to be resolved before this overlap can be

eliminated. These questions have been reviewed in the past and will be revisited from time to time as new developments warrant.

- How to quickly address new and emerging issues in national accounts.

### **3.2 MONEY AND BANKING, GOVERNMENT FINANCE, AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS**

**Goal:** That there exists a comprehensive, coherent and balanced system of money, banking government finance and balance of payments statistics capable of supporting government activities relating to developing and adjusting policy, and deepening the understanding of the determinants of globalisation.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Future action in joint data collection (concerns transition economies): UNCTAD and Eurostat will endeavour to resolve the issue during the course of 2002, subject to resource constraints.
- Problems that countries are facing in collection of good quality data on balance of payments.

### **3.3 INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS**

**Goal:** That there exist consistent and comprehensive traded goods sector statistics that are consistent with international standards and definitions.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- The work carried out by UNSD to develop commonly agreed data sets through an interagency cooperation with a view to reducing the response burden on national statistical offices.

### **3.4 TRANSPORT STATISTICS**

**Goal:** That there exist transport statistics that are consistent with the standards, classifications and needs of mainstream economic statistics and with international standards and definitions.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Very little progress has been made in developing price indices for transport, which remains an area of high demand.

### **3.7 TOURISM**

**Goal:** That there exists a comprehensive, coherent and balanced system of tourism statistics capable of supporting government activities relating to developing and adjusting policy, and deepening the understanding of the determinants of tourism.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- International cooperation in the field of tourism statistics continues to work well. The next important field to work on is the update of the 1993 UN Recommendations on Tourism Statistics.

### **3.8 OTHER MARKETED SERVICES, AND NON-MARKETED SERVICES**

**Goal:** That there exist service sector statistics that are consistent with international standards and definitions.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Future action in joint data collection (Information Society Statistics, see also PE 3.11 and PE 3.13): The OECD Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS), after having developed an OECD activity-based definition of the Information and Communication Technology

(ICT) sector, is now collecting internationally comparable ICT supply data and extending the ICT sector definition to a commodity-based one. The WPIIS has decided to create an Expert Group on "Defining and Measuring E-commerce". Fourteen countries and Eurostat are participating in the Expert Group.

### **3.9 PRICE STATISTICS, INCLUDING PURCHASING POWER PARITIES**

**Goal:** That there exist internationally comparable and reliable measures of price levels and trends and of purchasing power parities.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Work on the preparation of new international manuals on price statistics is to be completed in 2002.
- Lending support to the proposal of the World Bank of injecting new resources into the International Comparison Programme (ICP).
- PPP work could benefit significantly from the participation of national accountants.

### **3.10 AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERY STATISTICS**

**Goal:** That there exists a set of internationally comparable and reliable statistics on agricultural, forestry and fishing activities that provides national and international policy makers with adequate information.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Future action in joint data collection (agriculture other than economic accounts for agriculture): Eurostat and FAO have agreed to co-operate in the area of agriculture price statistics. Other types of data sets are successively to be identified and included in framework of Common Data Consultation and Utilization.
- Future action in joint data collection (fishery statistics): Following a joint Eurostat/FAO/OECD meeting with national statisticians in February 2000 and discussions on this topic in the OECD Committee for Fisheries proposals are being formulated to minimise the duplication of demands made on the national services and to improve the exchange of data between the international agencies.
- Future action in joint data collection (agro-environment indicators): See PE 5.1.
- The central role of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Agriculture Statistics (IWG.AGRI) in coordinating the activities of its members and of the work in preparing the World Conferences on Agriculture Statistics.
- Agriculture statistics is extending its scope to encompass environment and rural development.

### **3.11 INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS**

**Goal:** That there exist industry sector statistics that are consistent with international standards and definitions, and that policy-makers have adequate information in the areas of SME's, productivity, technology and employment at a disaggregated level.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Future action in joint data collection (structural business statistics): agreement on joint data collection has been reached between OECD and Eurostat, which is a major achievement.
- Future action in data collection on SME statistics: Data collection will continue to be carried out by OECD.

### 3.12 ENERGY STATISTICS

**Goal:** That there exist energy sector statistics that are consistent with international standards and definitions.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Countries should be alerted to the consequences of reducing the resources allocated to energy statistics. For monitoring of international protocols and agreements, the quality, coverage, details and timelines of energy statistics have to be improved. Any further cuts in energy statistics resources will lead to grave consequences for monitoring the global economy (price volatility) and the quality of statistics on the reduction of GHG emissions.

### 3.13 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STATISTICS

**Goal:** That there exist science and technology sector statistics that are consistent with international standards and definitions, covering the conception, development, appropriation, diffusion and application of new technologies to the production of goods and services.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Finalise improvements of various aspects of the Frascati Manual for R&D surveys and put them into practice.
- Continue to develop and improve surveys of technological innovation and the associated indicators and, where necessary, improve the Oslo Manual.
- Update and expand existing methodologies and surveys in order to provide better indicators of the internationalization of science and technology and its application.
- Improve regional breakdowns within member countries.
- Improve the existing methodology in revising the Canberra Manual.
- Continue analytical and methodological work on patents and where necessary improve the Patent Manual.

### 3.14 BUSINESS REGISTERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS IN SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

**Goal:** That there exist business registers of sufficiently good quality to support required statistical activity and that the best use is made of administrative records for statistical purposes.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Many countries are still in the implementing phase of the harmonization and development of business registers as a survey frame and source of information.
- A global harmonization of the treatment of enterprise groups is necessary, as the information on enterprise groups is essential for improving statistics on globalisation; in this context, the development of the OECD Manual of Economic Globalisation Indicators is important and an agreement at the UN level should be achieved.
- The Eurostat methodological development is incorporated in the Business Register Manual of Recommendations, which is currently being revised due to recent development. The finalisation of the draft and planned chapters will be achieved by the end of 2002 and input for this work is welcomed from all countries and international organisations.

### 3.99 OTHER WORK IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

**Goal:** That there exist consistent and comprehensive statistics on the areas covered in this Programme Element that are consistent with international standards and definitions.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Short-term statistics are ever more demanded for policy makers and analysts having to monitor the short-term economic situation. Therefore, the production of a high level quality service is regarded as a project of the utmost importance in the euro-zone as well as for the European Union as a whole.
- The European Statistical System High Level Group has been created to guarantee the improvement of key EU/EMU short-term economic indicators (define a draft list of Principal European Economic Indicators as well as a plan for improving in particular the timeliness of the indicators) and assure the follow-up of the EMU Action Plan and EU/USA Benchmarking.
- The increasing importance of international accounting rules (reference: Enron and similar cases) and the need to study their likely impact on statistics should urge statisticians to: integrate the existing discussion fora; to endorse standardisation of accounting and support reduction of reporting burden for enterprises; and try to have an influence in the use of accounting concepts to statistical purposes.

**Programme Activity 4: Social And Demographic Statistics**

This Part of the Programme covers a wide range of statistics in the social and demographic spheres that are of interest to National Statistical Institutes in the UNECE region. The statistically-related work that the various international organisations undertake in these fields are influenced not only by the major policy trends that are taking place in countries of the ECE region but by the outcome of the deliberations and exchange that take place among Governments at major UN global meetings in this field (e.g. major world meetings on women and gender, ageing, the Social Summit, the Millennium Declaration, etc.).

Work by the Conference and by the ECE secretariat is focussed on selected subject-matter areas such as population and housing censuses, international migration statistics where efforts are concentrated on developing and promoting the implementation of internationally accepted standards and methods, and in the field of gender statistics where attention is concentrated on developing a Regional Gender Statistics Website for use in monitoring progress and change. In addition, the ECE secretariat also works closely with other international organisations in organising joint meetings in selected other fields of statistics in the Conference's work programme such as health statistics (with WHO) and labour statistics (with ILO).

**4.1 DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS (INCLUDING PROJECTIONS, MIGRATION, FERTILITY AND FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS)**

**Goal:** That member states be able to produce reliable and timely demographic statistics and projections according to international standards enabling comparative analysis.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- In the field of international migration statistics there are various problems that need particular attention, including the limitations of traditional statistical methods, the poor comparability of data, and thus the limited utilisation of the UN recommendations by Member States.
- The cooperation among international organisations in data collection should be further improved.

**4.2a POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES**

**Goal:** That censuses be conducted according to international standards and norms of efficiency and effectiveness while meeting the needs of individual countries

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Several countries were unable to carry out the censuses for financial or technical reasons.



- The transition from traditional census to register-based census, that took place or is taking place in many countries in the region, will have important consequences in areas such as international migration or statistics on special groups.

#### **4.4 LABOUR STATISTICS**

**Goal:** That labour statistics be adequate for describing labour market conditions and identifying the underlying causal conditions in order to enable governments to have the information with which to intervene to improve conditions and to harmonise economic and social policies and programmes and conform to international standards and norms.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Resources are not available to the ILO to carry out the revision of ISCO-88.
- Work is needed on the harmonization of the measurement of income earnings.

#### **4.7a STATISTICS OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURES, OF THE WELFARE OF THE POPULATION, AND OF POVERTY AND INCOME STATISTICS**

**Goal:** That there exist comprehensive, comparable, reliable and timely statistics describing the distribution of the capacity of individuals, families, and households to acquire goods and services; to identify the sources of inequality in incomes; to understand processes of social exclusion; to assess the need for intervention in the distribution of incomes to target interventions deemed necessary and to monitor the effectiveness of such interventions.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- The final report of the Canberra Group on Household Income Statistics is now available (<http://lisweb.ceps.lu/links/canbaccess.htm>).
- Further work is needed in the area of the measurement of income earnings, to improve data quality and international comparability.

#### **4.7b SOCIAL SECURITY STATISTICS**

**Goal:** That social security statistics be adequate for policy needs and public purposes and conform to international standards and norms.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- The increasing attention and the various activities on the ageing of the population and the costs associated with that.

#### **4.8 CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS**

**Goal:** That there exist reliable, comprehensive and internationally comparable system of crime and justice statistics capable of supporting social policy development and enhanced public awareness and accountability.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Further work is needed to improve data comparability of crime statistics.
- Attention should also be paid to the differences existing between survey data and administrative data.

#### **4.9 HEALTH STATISTICS**

**Goal:** That there exists a coherent system of health statistics capable of supporting policy analysis and decision-making in the field of health.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- The issue of data confidentiality, which is particularly felt in the area of health statistics.
- Joint data collection: Informal agreements exist between WHO, OECD and Eurostat for improvement of data collection, harmonised data collection and analysis, the use of common instruments, mutual exchange of data of common interest. A close collaboration is also developed with ILO in the field of Occupational Health and Safety statistics.
- Exchange of information: Informal agreements exist between OECD and Eurostat to exchange information and data obtained from member states for the purpose of cross-checking and completing respective own data collections.

#### **4.10 GENDER STATISTICS**

**Goal:** That there exists a gender perspective in all relevant statistical areas.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Further work is needed to improve the measurement of gender differences in earnings. There are important methodological weaknesses and inadequacies in some of the statistical work being carried out in this field.

#### **4.11c REGISTERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS FOR SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS**

**Goal:** That statistical systems make the best use of administrative data.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- In many countries of the region registers and administrative records are increasingly used for census purposes, representing in some cases the main sources of information (see P.E. 4.2a).

#### **Programme Activity 5: Environment Statistics**

This part of the Programme reflects the concern of the Conference to develop an integrated system of internationally comparable environment statistics which can assist decision-makers in formulating policies that are environmentally sustainable. Environment statistics continue to show substantial data gaps and quality problems, and continuous improvement of the regular reporting and dissemination is a concern in most countries. Environment statisticians play a crucial role in providing society with concepts, classifications and definitions and also need to be involved at an early stage in the development of environmental indicators and sustainability indicators. Environmental accounting is an increasingly important way for recording the use of natural resources and integrating economic and environmental thinking. The Conference and the ECE Statistical Division are only marginally involved in work in this field because of resource limitations.

#### **5.1 SECTORAL CONCEPTS, DEFINITIONS, CLASSIFICATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATABASES**

**Goal:** That there exists an integrated system of internationally comparable environmental statistics capable of assisting governments in setting and adjusting regulatory, taxation and resource management policies which directly or indirectly affect the environment.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Statisticians need to be involved in the early stages of work to identify and develop environment indicators to add practicality to the mix of ideas and ensure the feasibility of any indicator proposed.
- Need for better coordination of data collection, avoid duplication and focus on priority data sets (“streamlining data collection”).
- Need to fill data gaps for prioritised environment statistics.
- The substantial work and preparations that are going on in countries and international organisations for the “Rio plus ten” assessment in 2002, including inter alia the development of indicators to monitor progress towards sustainable development (see also PE 2.8 Sustainable development indicators).

## **5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING**

**Goal:** That there is an integration path between accounts in physical terms and the corresponding elements on national accounts in money terms.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Close interaction of environmental and economic accounting.
- Completion of the revision of the SEEA handbook and the need to develop, as soon as possible, the operational handbook to complement it.

### **Programme Activity 6: Dissemination and Support for Secretariat Activities**

Coordination is a primary concern in all the work of the Conference. This program activity is concerned with the data collection policies of the international organisations and helps to ensure that duplication in their data collections is avoided and that the reporting burden on national offices is kept to a minimum. Data dissemination activities are also covered in this part of the work programme.

## **6.1 DISSEMINATION OF DATA AND CO-ORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL DATA COLLECTION**

**Goal:** That co-ordination of international data collection and dissemination is done effectively.

**The Bureau agreed that attention of the Conference should be called to the following:**

- Differences in pricing policies used by different national and international statistical agencies in the dissemination of statistical information.
- The increasing role of Internet in data collection. These innovations represent an opportunity to reduce the burden on NSI's. Further development of electronic data interchange standards (e.g., the XML-based standard for Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)) is expected to considerably enhance the use of Internet based data collection. However, in order to take full advantage of this opportunity, a high level of coordination among international organizations on data collection is required.

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