UNITED NATIONS ESCAP

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Working/Inception Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics

29-30 September 2011, Bangkok, Thailand

REPORT

Background

The Committee on Statistics of ESCAP at its second session expressed full support of two overarching strategic goals for statistics development in Asia and the Pacific, including "ensuring that all countries in the region by 2020 have the capability to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environment statistics." The Committee at the same time decided to establish a Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics (TAG-SS) to provide recommendations on the strategic directions as well as substantive and methodological guidelines regarding the achievement of this goal. On the basis of nominations by member States and development partners, the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics in May 2011 endorsed the composition of the TAG-SS and subsequently the two Co-Chairs, Ms Susan Linacre (Australia) and Mr Wynandin Imawan (Indonesia).

The Working/Inception Meeting was held to produce a work plan of the TAG-SS for the first year after its constitution. Based on discussions of the basic elements of a programme on improving social statistics in Asia and the Pacific till 2020, the work plan was to include specific goals, outputs, activities and schedule.

The meeting took place from 29 to 30 September 2011 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok. The tentative agenda of the meeting is contained in Annex I and the list of participants in Annex II.

Outcomes of the meeting

Members of the TAG-SS agreed to develop a proposal of a regional programme of improving social statistics in Asia and the Pacific, which is to be presented to the third session of the Committee on Statistics in December 2012. The proposed programme is to contain the following components:

Component 1: Basic set of social statistics all member States in the region should be able to produce by 2020

The meeting agreed to develop a draft of a basic set of social statistics that all members States in the region should be able to produce by 2020. The approach to be taken is (1) identifying areas of concerns (domains), (2) looking at social issues within each domain (policy issues), (3) developing indicators, and (4) looking at underlying sources of data needed for each indicator and (5) desirable periodicity. As a starting point, domains of social statistics could include Population; Health; Income and expenditure; Employment; Education; Housing; Information and communication; Crime and justice; Family and community, including community cohesion; and Culture and leisure.

The draft of the basic set of social statistics is to be developed through consultation with national stakeholders as well as relevant expert groups (e.g. on economic statistics and gender statistics) regarding, *inter alia*, the domains, enduring issues and policy concerns, as well as indicators and underlying data sources in each domain.

Component 2: Strategy for building capacity in the region to produce the basic set

It was agreed that a strategy for strengthening national capacity was essential for ensuring that all member States will able to produce the basic set of social statistics by 2020. The development of the proposed strategy is to be based on the draft of the basic set as well as an understanding of the major gaps that currently exist in national statistical systems.

Component 3: Directions for a programme of work to implement the strategy

The proposal of a regional programme will also include directions of a programme of work to implement the strategy, including specific targets, milestones, deliverables, etc.

Time plan

The work on developing the draft of a basic set of social statistics will start immediately. A document on capacity building will be drafted upon completion of consultation in countries of the members of the TAG-SS on the basic set (see the next paragraph for more details). It is necessary to organize a meeting towards the end of June 2012 to review the draft of the basic set and the document on capacity building. On the basis of inputs to be provided at that meeting, documents for the Committee on Statistics will then be developed and finalized towards the end of August 2012.

Members of the TAG-SS agreed on the following time schedule:
- Draft list of basic set of social statistics: November 2011
- Countries review of the draft list: December 2011 (this might take longer in some countries)
- Final draft: January 2012
- Assessment of national capacity to meet basic set (selection of countries to take into consideration of different stages of statistical development): March 2012
- Review meeting: June 2012
- Final committee paper by August 2012

General discussions

Current practices of social statistics

The meeting reviewed social statistics work in countries as well as some organizations of the TAG-SS members. Aspects of this work included:

- Whether social statistics are collected through a centralised system (i.e. by National Statistical Office) or decentralised system (in collaboration with other key agencies);
- Institutional framework for the coordination between various agencies, in case of decentralized system, e.g. National Statistics Councils, Statistics Coordination Committees, as well as subject-related technical committees;
- Existence of Statistics Law and if the Law provides for effective coordination mechanisms and for prioritizing a statistical work programme;
- Predominant method of data collection, e.g. administrative data, collected data or a combination of the two; major regular collections for social statistics does your country run (e.g. 10 yearly census, quarterly labour force survey, biennial health survey);
- The use of the Millennium Development Goals or another framework to organise the work on social statistics;
- Availability of a National Statistics Development Strategy or Statistical Master Plan or similar long-term plan where social statistics is addressed;
- Description of key social statistics produced.

In addition, members of TAG-SS from the Asian Development Bank and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community also briefed the meeting participants on the work of their institutions that are related to social statistics, including the Framework of Inclusive Growth Indicators and the SPC National Minimum Development Indicators.

Determining social statistics

The meeting reviewed issues regarding the scope and framework of social statistics as outlined in a paper prepared by Ms Susan Linacre (http://www.unescap.org/stat/social-stat/meeting-Sep2011/basic-set-Social-Stat-ESCAP2020-ppt.pdf). The paper argued that in the broadest definition, social statistics should include all statistics that are related to people's living conditions. This definition would surely overlap with other statistics, which is not a problem. There needs to be cooperation between various statistical groups such that efforts and resources are used efficiently. In addition, cooperation is necessary in order to standardize definitions across sectors.

The paper discussed a number of existing approaches to defining social statistics. At one end of the spectrum is a broad based approach that involves mapping out the field of social statistics conceptually (the areas of policy and community concern, the issues, the players, the transactions, outputs etc). Priorities for statistics would then be based on identifying those significant elements of this conceptual map where measurement was wanted. The

ABS conceptual map, facilitates the identification of areas of concern for measurement by considering a matrix that looks at different population groups within each domain or area of concern. At the other end of the spectrum, is the far more specific approach of the goals of the government(s) of the day, and then deciding on the set of social statistics to measure progress on each goal. An example of this approach is the MDGs. Goals might change when governments changed. A broader version of this more specific approach is to decide the areas of policy and research concern within and across countries. The United Nations Minimum National Social Data Set is such an example. Indicator based approaches to defining social statistics, tend to focus on the use of statistics to measure performance rather than the broader use of statistics to explore the determinants, and the effects of of socio-economic conditions.

A very broad conceptual approach is unlikely to be viable for this exercise, and the suggested approach is to develop a framework to cover social statistics by going through the following steps: (1) agreeing on the areas of concerns (domains), (2) looking at social issues within each domain (policy issues), taking account of particular population groups for which such social issues arise, and for which measurement is therefore of strong interest and (3) developing indicators that can be used to measure goals, and (4) looking at underlying sources of data needed for each indicator.

The domains must cover social concerns. However, core issues can be identified within each domain. So it is important to ensure that the domains covered all areas of social concerns.

One useful source of information on national priorities in social and economic development is national development plans. However, unlike documents on National Statistics Development Strategy which in most cases can be found in a central place at PARIS21 website, there is no one central location for documents on national development plans. Thus, the members were requested to share such documents, in case they exist, so that they can be used in drafting the proposed basic set of social statistics.

The participants discussed an initial list of domains of social statistics that includes Population; Health; Income and expenditure; Employment; Education; Housing; Information and communication; Transport, energy and governance; Crime and justice; Family and community, including community cohesion; and Culture and leisure.

Domains and policy issues of social statistics

The issue of overlapping domains in various sectors may be taken care while identifying the basic set of indicators. One participant pointed out that though in some countries, social security is placed under income, social statistics should include social cohesion and social security and it is important to measure the level of participation by different groups such as women. In some countries, social security is placed under income. The increasing need for more disaggregated statistics for regions (within a country) and vulnerable groups (poor, women, children, youth, aged, differently abled, indigenous and marginalized populations)

was identified as a key policy concern in the wake of growing inequalities despite high economic growth in many countries.

Social statistics should also cover those areas of life which are not otherwise developed into a major sector. For example, there already exists consensus on agriculture statistics but none on fisheries. Since significant sections of the population in some countries rely on fisheries, social statistics should address issue on fisheries, such as areas and materials as well as the way of life in general. One possibility is to include this in vulnerable employment. Another possibility is to include it as a population group of interest in other domains ie those depending on fishing.

There was a discussion on the role of perception-based indices in social statistics. The World Bank produces data on governance such as corruption and rule of law. Issues regarding this type of indicators are being taken up at the international level. One member of the TAG-SS shared the national experience of conducting a small survey on the population's perception of corruption. Survey questions covered different services provided and agencies that provided these services. The TAG-SS would explore how to address issues of governance and this type of indicators while considering what is to be included in social statistics.

Government expenditure is pertinent to social statistics as it has implications for allocation of government resources, particularly the allocation of public resources for different population groups and also for identifying the contributions of inputs in the social sector outcomes. This issue could be included in the national consultation to see whether it will be priority in social statistics in national contexts. Economics statistics includes information on government expenditure, although the issue is also related to social statistics.

Population: In addition to the major indicators in this domain, other domains and issues of policy importance include population aging, skewed sex ratio, early marriage, vulnerability and resilience to natural disasters, etc.

Health: With the growing attention to disability and lack of housing, it would be necessary to include statistics to shed light on these issues. Also equity in access to health services is an important concern.

Income and expenditure, employment: In this domain, it is important to include statistics on impact of remittances on poverty and inequality, income security, casual and non-casual employment and poverty gap. Social statistics should also reflect changes in society that are related to pensions and social protection in Asia and the Pacific, as well the transition from agriculture to services as well as the industrial setup. Associated with such changes is the transferral of labour from the informal sector to formal employment. Thus social protection issues arise for those left behind. Flagging such issues would help governments to address them.

Education: Completion of secondary school is now an important policy concern in countries with high or near universal primary school enrolment. However, in some countries

universal access to primary education remains an issue. In the former group of countries, the quality of education and having skills to function in society are becoming important policy concerns in the domain of education, as are adult literacy and vocational training. So, there should be a measurement of education quality by 2020. As for specific indicators in education, since the duration of different levels of schooling varies across countries, average years of schooling might be a more suitable indicator than enrolment rates. The meeting was informed that the issue is being examined by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Also participation at the tertiary level remains an important policy issue, as the need to document gender parity at this level.

Housing: Important policy issues in this domain include slums and their quality as well as security, access to services within housing, and proportion of population living in dangerous areas, for instance in the path of landslides and earthquakes. Other issues include location with access to health care facilities, transport services and childcare. So location of housing is also related to affordability of housing.

An issue related to households, although not necessarily directly about housing is the intra-household distribution of resources, power and access to social services. The assumption is not always true that everyone at the household has equal access. In reality, there might be different levels of equity within household. The regional programme of social statistics might look into this issue.

Crime and justice: It is useful to make a distinction between crimes taking place inside the house and those taking place outside the house. Other potential and related issues include domestic violence, violence against women, and harassment at work level. In some countries, there is a need for information on perceptions of crime from the individual perspective as well as the actual level recorded by the police. Statistics from these two sources are different but both are necessary. In some countries, there are separate indicators on the number of people injured by crime and the number of deaths caused by crime. It is important to address gender issue in crime and justice. In addition, the length of time between filing for a crime and prosecution or court decision reflects the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. Producing statistics of crime and justice is difficult but it is the responsibility of statisticians as this is an important part of the social environment.

Family and community, including community cohesion: Important issues in this domain include family cohesion, issues of social isolation and cohesion. There is impact of overseas employment on family, especially those members left behind.

Gender statistics

The TAG-SS was aware of the work on a regional programme on gender statistics and sought clarification as to the framework and timeline of the work. It was explained that the plan was to come up with a basic set of gender statistics towards the end of year 2011. It was emphasized that the process is very open and complementary to the work on a regional programme on social statistics. Efforts would be made to avoid duplication.

The meeting noted that the draft outcome document of the fourth high level forum on aid effectiveness to be held in Busan, Korea from 29 November – 1 December 2011, specifically suggests to accelerate efforts to collect, disseminate and make full use of data disaggregated by sex to inform policy decisions and if this is approved in the forum, is expected to determine the specific commitments to gender issues and statistics and will give a push to gender statistics.

The meeting agreed that gender issues are very much social concerns, therefore social statistics should cover gender statistics. Social statistics should not have a set of statistics on gender that is different from gender statistics. The development of social statistics should be based on having identified key issues in gender, so the domains can pick up these key issues.

Consultation within countries

The meeting emphasized the importance of engaging policy makers in order to ensure the relevance of the framework of social statistics. The focus of the consultations should be on policy issues and the use of statistics rather than statistics per se. As such, consultations should reflect the views of government and non-government agencies working on social development.

Organizing consultations with various stakeholders can be time consuming, especially in a decentralized system. On the other hand, only one month is scheduled for this task. It would take more time to undertake and complete the consultation with important stakeholders in some countries.

A feasible approach is to provide a tentative list of basic set of statistics for the stakeholders to tick off and comment on. A plan to generalize the consultations across more countries in the region will be formulated at the review meeting in June 2012.

For its consultation on the national development indicators, the SPC provided member countries with a minimum set and explained to the latter that they could add other indicators that reflect their priorities above and beyond the minimum. This approach could be considered for the national consultations.

In the case of the regional programme on economic statistics, it was left to the countries to decide which government agencies or stakeholders were to be involved in the consultations. In addition, much of the core set of economic statistics was inspired by such international frameworks as the Special Data Dissemination Standard and the General Data Dissemination System which countries already subscribe to. In this sense, there is already consensus on, and an "objective" framework of, economics statistics, which is not necessarily the case with social statistics.

The challenge in carrying out national consultations with key stakeholders is to mix consultation with advocacy. In addition, the sources of data to produce a basic set of social statis-

tics are different from country to country. The feedback from the members of the TAG-SS will be summarized and incorporated in the revision of the draft of the basic set.

Strengthening national capacity to produce social statistics

The meeting noted the strategies of national statistical capacity development in the on-going regional programmes to improve economic statistics, civil registration and vital statistics, and gender statistics as well as projects on disability statistics. The development of these programmes adopts a process of consultation with countries and coming to consensus on core sets of statistics, which forms the basis for the scope for capacity building activities.

Typically, after the core set is determined, desk research and rapid assessments are conducted of current practices and capability of national statistical systems at a region level, followed by detailed in-country assessments of capacity constraints and development needs. Then national improvement plans are developed that contain details of costing implications. A variety of tools are employed to assist national statistical capacity development, ranging from advocacy and advisory services to cost-benefit analyses and targeted training.

Coordination among various stakeholders both within countries and between development partners is emphasized throughout the process. Implementation of these programmes is largely through national statistical offices, with development partners providing technical assistance.

In the case of economic and gender statistics, the assessments sought to understand whether countries produced the particular statistics, the frequency at which such statistics were produced, disaggregation of the statistics for the population sub-groups, etc. Where gaps were identified, efforts were made to look further at the underlying causes.

It is not certain whether by 2020 there will be enough data for a basic set of social statistics, especially without effective capacity building activities. At a minimum, the basic set and the capacity development strategy can point to areas deemed important. Therefore, the strategy should highlight key areas or activities needed to bring up national capacity.

Aside from organizing events and participating in high-level meetings to promoting social statistics, it is worthwhile to consider having some kind of regular analytical outputs on trends of social development in the region. The benefit of such analytical outputs is to raise the profile of the programme and demonstrate the usefulness of the programme. The specific topics are to be discussed and determined by the TAG well in advance to allow enough time for countries to prepare and provide inputs. This type of activity should capitalize on statistical publications that already exist at the national level. Collaboration with substantive specialists and agencies should be sought to ensure the relevance.

Issues related to developing the proposals

The two Co-Chairs offered to draft the proposal of the basic set.

The secretariat will be responsible for drafting the proposal of statistical capacity development.

The secretariat commits itself to supporting this plan and will identify sources of funding for the review meeting in June 2012.

ANNEX I PROVIDSIONAL AGENDA

Working/Inception meeting
Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics

United Nations Conference Centre, Meeting Room A
Bangkok, 29-30 September 2011

Expected outputs: Through the sharing of ideas and experiences by national and international experts, the inception meeting is expected to provide:
- Basic elements of a programme on improving social statistics in Asia and the Pacific till 2020 and major milestones
- The work plan of the TAG-SS for 2011-12, including specific goals, outputs, activities, schedule and resource requirements

Day 1 – 29 September 2011		
	Activity	**Resource**
08:30 – 09:00	**Registration**	
Session 1	**Welcome and setting the tone: Agreeing on expected results**	
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome and the structure of the meeting • Social statistics and the two over-arching goals of statistics development of the Committee on Statistics of ESCAP: (a) ensuring that all countries in the region have the capability by 2020 to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environment statistics, and (b) creating a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration; • Expected goals of the Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics, and how this meeting will contribute to achieving them.	Mr Jan Smit, ES-CAP
09:10 – 09:30	Calibrating participants' expectations • Participants introduce themselves, how their work is related to social statistics and what they expect to contribute to the meeting	

Session 2	Reality of social statistics: National experiences	
Objective: Achieve common understanding of issues in national practices in social statistics in order to (a) define a basic range of social statistics that all countries in the regional are able to produce by 2020, and (b) identify issues to be addressed in a regional programme on national statistics capacity development on social statistics. A suggested list of issues to be covered by papers/presentations on national practices in social statistics is provided at the end of the agenda. The presenter can consider highlighting one or two issues in the presentation.		
09:30 – 10:15	*Session 2.1*	Ms Paula Monina G. Collado
	Bangladesh: Mr Dipankar Roy Indonesia: Mr Wynandin Imawan Iran: Ms Mahsa Saadati Q&A for clarification	
10:15 – 10:30	- Group photograph COFFEE/TEA BREAK	
10:30 – 11:45	*Session 2.2*	Ms Sunitha Bhaskar
	Australia: Ms Susan Linacre Mongolia: Ms D. Oyunchimeg Singapore: Mr Lee Eu-Fah Edmond Q&A for clarification	
11:45 – 13:15	LUNCH BREAK	
13:15 – 14:15	*Session 2.3*	Mr Dipankar Roy
	Azerbaijan: Mr Nemat Khuduzade Bhutan: Ms Phub Sangay India: Ms Sunitha Bhaskar Philippines: Ms Paula Monina G. Collado Q&A for clarification	
14:15 – 15:15	*Session 2.4 Discussions*	Mr Wynandin Imawan
Plenary discussions -- • What are the common issues in social statistics in terms of underlying framework, data collection and compilation, coordination among various stakeholders etc? • What are the gaps in the current practice in social statistics? • What are the opportunities for taking the work forward at a regional level?		
15:00 – 15:15	COFFEE/TEA BREAK	

Session 2	Reality of social statistics: National experiences	
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09:30 – 10:15	*Session 2.1*	Ms Paula Monina G. Collado
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10:30 – 11:45	*Session 2.2*	Ms Sunitha Bhaskar
	Australia: Ms Susan Linacre Mongolia: Ms D. Oyunchimeg Singapore: Mr Lee Eu-Fah Edmond Q&A for clarification	
11:45 – 13:15	LUNCH BREAK	
15:15 – 16:15	*Session 2.4 continues*	
16:15 – 16:30	Summary of the day and what is to come up	Ms Susan Linacre
	END OF DAY 1	

Day 2 - 30September 2011		
09:00 – 09:15	Recap of Day 1	Mr Wynandin Imawan
Session 3	Towards a work plan of TAG-SS for 2011-2012	
Objective: Formulate a work plan that includes specific goals, outputs, activities, schedule and resource requirements		
Session 3.1	*A basic range of social statistics for Asia and the Pacific: What is reasonable?*	

	Chair: Mr Lee Eu-Fah Edmond	
09:15 – 09:30	Presentation -- A comparison of existing frameworks regarding social statistics, and some basic sets of social statistics	Ms Susan Linacre
09:30 – 10:15	Plenary Discussion – • What issues need to be considered in setting up a framework for describing a basic set of social statistics? • What sort of issues would arise with inclusion of particular social statistics in a basic set for all countries in the region?	Mr Wynandin Imawan
10:15 – 10:30	COFFEE/TEA BREAK	
10.30 – 11.00	Presentation -Experiences in regional programmes on statistics development: Lessons learned from other regional programmes on statistics at ESCAP, e.g economic statistics, vital statistics and gender statistics	ESCAP
Session 3.2	*What should be the work plan of the TAG-SS?*	
11:00 – 11:45	Plenary discussion -- • What process should be taken to arrive at an agreed range of social statistics for the region? • What are the expected outputs and what is the time frame for producing the outputs? • What steps should be taken to assess national statistical capacity in producing social statistics? What should be the outputs and time frame? • What steps should be taken to establish a strategy for strengthening national statistical capacity in producing social statistics? What should be the outputs and time frame?	Ms Susan Linacre
11:45 – 13:15	LUNCH BREAK	
13:15 – 15:00	Session 3.2 continues	Ms D. Oyunchimeg
15:00 – 15:15	COFFEE BREAK	
15:15 – 16:30	• Summary of key results • Next steps and closing statements	Mr Wynandin Imawan & Ms Susan Linacre

List of issues to be addressed in papers/presentations on national practices in social statistics:

- Are social statistics in your country collected through a centralised system (i.e. by National Statistical Office) or decentralised system (in this case please specify the key agencies involved in producing official social statistics)?
- In case of a decentralized system, what is the institutional framework for the coordination between the National Statistics Office and the line ministries (e.g. information on coordination mechanisms - National Statistics Councils, Statistics Coordination Com-

- Are your social statistics predominantly based on administrative data, collected data or a combination of the two?
- What major regular collections for social statistics does your country run (eg 10 yearly census, quarterly labour force survey, biennial health survey)? Please give a brief description of each regular collection including sample size, scope, main items collected.
- Do you use the Millennium Development Goals or another framework to organise your work on social statistics? If so, please provide a brief description of how the Goals or other framework are used. Please give a brief description of the framework used.
- Is there a National Statistics Development Strategy or Statistical Master Plan or similar long-term plan? If yes, to what extent do they include the statistical work in social sector including the statistical activities of the line ministries? What, if any, are the on-going statistical capacity-building activities covering social statistics?
- Description of key social statistics produced, and means of data collection: (eg using a table like the one that was sent to you earlier). Is there a separate list for gender statistics (to cover gender-based violence and time use statistics)?
- To what extent are international classifications - ICD10, ISECED, ISCO, etc – used and suitably modified to meet country needs?

ANNEX II LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF TAG-SS

AUSTRALIA

Ms Susan Linacre, Advisor, Strategic Projects, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cranberra

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Mr Nemat Khuduzade, Deputy Head of Division, State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku

BANGLADESH

Mr Dipankar Roy, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Dhaka

BHUTAN

Mr Phub Sangay, Chief Statistical officer, National Statistics Bureau, Thimbhu

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Ms Sunitha Bhaskar, Director, Social Statistics Division, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

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Ms Mahsa Saadati, R & D expert, Statistical Centre of Iran, Tehran

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Ms Oyunchimeg Dandar, Director of Population and Social Statistics Department, National Statistical Office of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar

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Mr Edmond Lee, Deputy Director, Singapore Department of Statistics, Singapore

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Mr Kaushal Joshi, Senior Statistician, ADB, Manila

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

Mr Arthur Jorari, Demographer, SPC, Noumea

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

Mr Enrico Bisogno, Statistician, Chief Statistics and Surveys Section, Geneva

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Mr Jan Smit	Chief, Statistical Development and Analysis Section (SDAS), Statistics Division (SD)
Ms Rikke Munk Hansen	Chief, Statistical Information Services Section (SISS), SD
Mr Yanhong Zhang	Statistician, SDAS/SD
Mr Andres Montes	Statistician, SDAS/SD
Mr Artur Andrysiak	Statistician, SISS/SD
Ms Jillian Campbell	Statistician, SISS/SD
Mr Harumi Shibata	Statistician, SDAS/SD
Mr Arman Bidar Bakhtnia	Associate Statistician, SDAS/SD
Mr Habibur Rahman Khan	Associate Statistician, SISS/SD
Mr Sharita Serrao	Associate Statistician, SISS/SD
Mr Teerapong Praphotjanaporn	Statistics Assistant, SDAS/SD
Ms Yalda Jafari	Individual Contractor, SDAS/SD
Mr Shoji Matsubara	Expert on Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Risk Reduction Section, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
Mr Donovan Storey	Chief, Social Policy and Population Section (SPP), Social Development Division (SDD)
Ms Vanessa Steinmayer	Social Affairs Officer, SPP/SDD
Mr Marco Roncarati	Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Section (SIS), SD