



ESCWA Statistics Subprogramme evaluation 2006-2009

Findings and Recommendations



Major findings

<p>The work of the Statistics Division was satisfactory, but there is a need for more direct support to NSOs. ESCWA needs to focus on capacity development and be seen as a centre of technical expertise.</p>	<p>5.1, 5.2, 5.11, 5.12, 5.13, 5.15</p>
<p>Data collection and dissemination would benefit from better coordination and focusing on quality assurance and resolving variations in data. Management responsibilities for the statistical database had to be clarified, and the database's content improved (relevance, timeliness, completeness, quality).</p>	<p>5.3, 5.5, 5.6, 5.8</p>
<p>Coordination within ESCWA and coordination with regional and global partners had to be strengthened. The consultant recommended a horizontal work approach to statistical activities among ESCWA divisions.</p>	<p>5.7, 5.16</p>
<p>Recommended more frequent session of the Statistical Committee.</p>	<p>5.4</p>
<p>The consultant recommended a review of human resources with respect to staffing size statistics divisions in other UN regional commissions, qualification needs and utilization of staff.</p>	<p>5.9, 5.10</p>
<p>The consultant recommended focus on gender, youth, MDGs and human rights. In other part of the report, the consultant mentions economic sector, water, transport and trade.</p>	<p>5.14, 5.17, 5.18</p>



Major recommendations

STRATEGIC VISION

6.1 Review ESCWA's niche and comparative advantage

6.2 ESCWA to give greater importance to human rights

6.3 Shift Statistics Division's focus to four pillars:

- A center for technical excellence in statistics
- A center for coordination and partnership
- A focus on gender and youth
- A continued focus on MDGs and international comparability of data



Major recommendations

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 6.4 Strengthen and adapt the ESCWA Statistical Information System (ESIS)
- 6.5 Review and reorganize the functions and work practices of the Statistics Division, in particular human resources
- 6.6 Ensure adequate resources in support of data work.
- 6.7 Re-align ESCWA's budget system to results based management



Major recommendations

INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

- 6.8 Statistics Division to determine and regularly re-check the specific needs of member states; Engage mechanism of coordination; Informal virtual meetings of Statistical Committee
- 6.10 Strengthen relations between Statistics Division and other ESCWA divisions



Major recommendations

PRIORITY PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

- 6.11 Measuring and evaluating impact of statistical capacity development
- 6.12 Bring to full development a number of gender-sensitive statistical projects



Major recommendations

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP

6.10 Strengthen further working relations of the Statistics Division with national, regional and international partners by undertaking joint initiatives