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REPORTS BY THE GOVERNING BODIES OF UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMMES AND CATEGORY 1 INSTITUTES

REPORT BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE UNESCO INSTITUTE FOR STATISTICS (UIS) ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE

SUMMARY

The document is prepared in accordance with Article V.1 (e) of the Statutes of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (30 C/Resolution 44) and 184 EX/Decision 7.

The financial and administrative implications of the reported activities fall within the parameters of the current C/5.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 31.

I.   INTRODUCTION

1.   The remit of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) is to provide statistical information to inform decision-making in Member States and international organizations, and to facilitate evidence-based debate in UNESCO's areas of competence.

2.   This report summarizes the main activities of the Institute since the last report to the UNESCO Executive Board in April 2010. Further details on any aspect of the work can be provided upon request.

EDUCATION STATISTICS

3.   The education database in the UIS Data Centre was updated three times in 2010 (January, May and October) according to the planned schedule. Relevant reference data for 2008 and regional averages were released in May and provided in advance to key international statistical reports such as the World Development Indicators report (World Bank), the Human Development Report and the education component of the Human Development Index (UNDP), the State of the World's Children report (UNICEF) and others.

4.   The UIS, as in previous years, provided the data for the statistical annex and key indicators that are used to monitor progress in the 2011 EFA Global Monitoring Report. At the regional level, the UIS provided education statistics for annual reporting by PREAL in Latin America, the Asian Development Bank, UNDP regional reports and EFA-Info in Asia.

5.   As part of the October data release, the UIS prepared more timely indicators for 83 countries for the 2009 reference school year. In addition, educational attainment data were published in the UIS Data Centre for the first time in 2010.

6.   The 2010 *Global Education Digest* was released in September for the Millennium Summit in New York. The analytic chapter focuses on gender and education across all education levels. The Digest has been disseminated widely, both in print and electronic formats.

7.   An education finance report focusing on sub-Saharan Africa has been drafted in collaboration with IIEP and Pole de Dakar and is being prepared for dissemination in early 2011. The report takes stock of the overall current situation of education financing in the region and examines key policy issues, including trade-offs among levels of education between quality and quantity and private sector involvement.

8.   In collaboration with the UNESCO Education Sector, the UIS is producing an education atlas on gender disparities, which will be released in the spring of 2011. The UIS is providing statistical tables, maps, graphics and analysis.

9.   The UIS has completed proposals for a revision of ISCED (International Standard Classification of Education) which will be presented to Member States for approval during the UNESCO General Conference in 2011. The proposals were developed in close collaboration with the OECD, Eurostat and members of the ISCED Technical Advisory Panel based on feedback from a series of regional expert meetings held in 2009 and 2010. The draft text was also the subject of a global consultation launched in Paris in May.

10.   The UIS has expanded its capacity-building project to improve the quality and coverage of education finance data for sub-Saharan Africa. With the collaboration of the World Bank and Pole de Dakar, the project now includes five new countries in southern and eastern Africa: Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda. The project aims to enable national teams to regularly report and analyse finance-related data and indicators by setting up country-specific guidelines.

11.   The UIS has completed an exercise to translate finance data collected through national education sector reviews into indicators that follow definitions and coverage for inclusion in the UIS database. This has contributed to improvements in the coverage and quality of 25% of indicators for sub-Saharan Africa between 1999 and 2007.

12.   In 2010, the UIS increased the coverage of literacy data to 146 countries compared to 121 in 2009; and from 91 to 119 countries in 2009 for educational attainment data. An imputation method to generate estimates of the adult literacy rate from survey data with partial population coverage was developed and data were produced for a new indicator on the literacy rate of the elderly population (65+ years), which will be published in the UIS Data Centre.

13.   Four regional workshops involving national statisticians were conducted in 2010 as part of efforts to: review ISCED mappings; resolve practical issues concerning data submissions to the Institute; communicate international measurement methodologies and new developments; and address EFA/MDG indicators and emerging policy issues. In addition, a series of national workshops were organized, which provide more detailed and intensive training.

Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP) and Assessment of Learning Outcomes Clearinghouse (ALO-C)

14.   In 2010, the UIS established the LAMP Global Advisory Board, comprising experts from different regions of the world. The Institute is preparing to conduct the LAMP main assessment which will take place in eight countries between October 2010 and April 2011. Jordan, Mongolia, Occupied Palestinian Territory and Paraguay have already established detailed schedules for the assessment. El Salvador, Morocco, Niger, and Viet Nam are in the process of finalizing these arrangements. This will be the first international adult literacy survey to be launched in 10 languages from six different linguistic families which use three different scripts.

15.   As part of ALO-C, the UIS has developed and tested a prototype to compile information on national assessments and examinations. This mechanism will serve as the basis for a pilot data compilation in 2011 which would be undertaken with several partner organizations.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T) STATISTICS

16.   The production of internationally comparable statistics on innovation is a major new priority for the UIS. The UIS is developing a pilot survey, which will be launched in June 2011 and will involve about 20 countries. In addition, the UIS is creating an inventory of innovation surveys undertaken by developing countries over the past 15 years. Cooperation agreements have been set up with key partners.

17.   The S&T dataset was updated in August 2010, based on new statistics collected from the OECD, Eurostat and RICYT. The 2010 S&T survey was sent out to respondents in early June. Over the past year, the UIS has basically doubled the amount of S&T data available to the public in the Data Centre.

18.   The UIS has worked closely with the UNESCO Science Sector to produce the UNESCO World Science Report, which was released in November 2010.

19.   The UIS produced a new technical guide, entitled *Measuring R&D: Challenges Faced by Developing Countries*, which is available in English, French and Spanish. The guide will serve as the basis of a draft annex being submitted to the OECD for inclusion in the Frascati Manual.

20.   In collaboration with the UNESCO Division for Science Policy and Sustainable Development and relevant field offices, the UIS organized four regional training workshops for national

statisticians and policymakers. The Institute also conducted a series of national training workshops.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION STATISTICS

21.   There is a growing demand for statistics on the use of ICT in education. However, it is important to recognize that new data collections can represent a considerable burden for national statisticians. Therefore, the UIS is seeking to strike a balance between the expectations of stakeholders and the practical constraints facing national statisticians. To resolve these issues, the Institute organized a consultation in March with key stakeholders. Following these consultations, the UIS launched a pilot survey in Latin America, given the region's strong demand for data.

22.   The UIS has finalized and disseminated a manual on ICT for education indicators in English, Spanish and French. The Arabic and Russian versions are being finalized.

23.   In February, the UIS conducted a pilot test of its revised survey on media statistics in five countries (Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Jordan and Ukraine). Based on this experience, the instruments were further refined and translated into French, Arabic and Spanish in order to prepare for the pilot data collection, involving about 25 countries.

CULTURE STATISTICS

24.   The 2010 cinema survey questionnaire was launched in August 2010 and data processing is close to completion. The UIS is actively researching potential subjects for a new international cultural survey to be launched in 2013. The Institute has commissioned four feasibility studies on data collection and measurement issues concerning crafts, cultural employment, festivals and books.

25.   The UIS is actively seeking to promote implementation of the 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics by organizing a series of regional and national training workshops for statisticians in diverse regions.

OTHER REPORTING ITEMS

26.   The UNESCO allocation for the first part of the biennium (2010-2011), which amounted to US $4,564,300, was received at the beginning of the year.

27.   In 2010, the Institute received contributions from the following countries/agencies: Canada, Quebec, CIDA, DFID, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, and the World Bank.

28.   In addition, Canada and Quebec, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, the EC and the World Bank have already committed to provide contributions to UIS in 2011. It is anticipated that other countries may continue to support UIS in 2011, but there is no firm commitment or agreement at this time.

29.   The UIS had its first External Audit from 30 August to 10 September 2010. It was conducted by the French *Cour des comptes*, who are presently the UNESCO external auditors. The UIS staff actively participated in providing the required information and support to the audit team during this exercise. The report was extremely positive.

30.   As of 31 January 2010, the UIS total number of employees is 119, including 50 fixed-term posts, 33 appointments of limited duration (ALDs), 31 service contracts (SCs) and 5 special service agreements (SSAs), of which 25 are based outside of Montreal in field or cluster offices located in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and Latin America.

ACTION EXPECTED OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

31.   In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1.   <u>Recalling</u> Article V.1 (e) of the Statutes of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (30 C/Resolution 44) and 184 EX/Decision 7,

2.   <u>Having examined</u> the report by the UIS Governing Board on the activities of the Institute since April 2010 (186 EX/7),

3.   <u>Takes note</u> of the achievements of the Institute over the last twelve months;

4.   <u>Invites</u> the Director-General to continue to be guided by the recommendations made by the UIS Governing Board;

5.   <u>Further invites</u> the UIS Governing Board to report to it at its 189th Session.