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**REPORTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODIES OF 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 182 EX/Decision 19.

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

Decision proposed: paragraph 33.

## 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 September 2009 (182 EX/19). Further details on any aspect of the work can be provided upon request.

## EDUCATION STATISTICS

3. In accordance with the planned schedule, the UIS education database was updated twice in 2009 (May and October) and again in January 2010. The October 2009 release demonstrated a marked improvement in data timeliness. This data was featured in major international statistical reports and indices, namely: the *World Development Indicators* (World Bank); the *Human Development Index and Report* (UNDP); *State of the World's Children* (UNICEF); the United Nation's official MDG report and many others.
4. The Institute contributed to the *2010 EFA Global Monitoring Report* by providing the statistical annex and key indicators used to monitor progress. In addition, analytical contributions to the report focused on out-of-school children, comparisons of household survey and administrative data sources, and projections of primary teacher demand.
5. The *Global Education Digest 2009* was released in July 2009 at a press conference during the World Conference on Higher Education in Paris. During the conference, the Institute also presented new data on international student mobility.
6. A new series of projections was released in October to help better gauge future needs for primary education teachers. The projections help to identify countries that need to expand their teaching forces in order to serve all primary school-age children enrolled in school by 2015. These forecasts are a key input into the EFA High-Level Group meeting in February 2010.
7. The Institute conducted an early assessment of the impact of the financial crisis on public education financing in 16 countries through the review of official government budgetary documents. This work will continue into 2010 in order to provide an update of the situation and contribute to the next *EFA Global Monitoring Report*.
8. The Institute is currently engaged in a major review of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED), which involves consultations with diverse experts and statistical organizations. In parallel, 55 ISCED mappings were completed, which markedly improve the data coverage for the countries involved.
9. Four regional workshops involving national statisticians were conducted in 2009 and early 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 provided more detailed and intensive training to groups of national statisticians and staff from education ministries.

## LITERACY STATISTICS

10. In addition to regularly producing global literacy statistics based on administrative data, the UIS leads two special programmes to improve measurement in this area.

### **The Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP)**

11. After completing field tests in pilot countries, the UIS has analysed the results and revised survey instruments and documentation. The main surveys in participating countries should begin in March 2010.

12. In addition, Jordan, Paraguay and Viet Nam completed preparatory work for their field tests, which will take place during the first quarter of 2010.

13. A technical advisory group for the Asia and the Pacific region was established in November 2009 to provide technical support to the countries of the region. A similar group was previously established in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **The Assessing Learning Outcomes Programme (ALO)**

14. Two studies were initiated to support the activities of the International Working Group on Assessing and Improving Quality Learning, established in October 2008. These studies focus on conditions that facilitate quality learning and curricular commonalities across countries pertaining to literacy and numeracy skills at the end of primary education.

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T) STATISTICS**

15. Since November 2009, UIS has played a pivotal role in two workshops (involving approximately 45 countries), which were organized by partner organizations RICYT and AU/NEPAD.

16. The results of the 2008 research and development (R&D) survey were released in October 2009 on the UIS website. These included data for 136 countries and territories.

17. The Institute has revised the main questionnaire and instruction manual of the joint UNESCO/OECD/Eurostat (UOE) survey on careers of doctorate holders (CDH). These improved instruments will be used for a 2010 data collection.

18. The Institute is working closely with the UNESCO Science Sector to produce a global science report, which is scheduled for release in June 2010.

### **CULTURE STATISTICS**

19. The Institute finalized and published the new *2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics* in collaboration with the UNESCO Culture Sector. Copies of the document were distributed to Member States, international organizations and other key stakeholders.

20. The Institute has also developed a strategy to facilitate implementation of the framework, which primarily involves the development of methodology handbooks and in-depth training workshops with national statisticians and culture officers on its use and application. In 2009, two regional training workshops on the implementation of the framework were conducted in Doha and Kingston.

21. Together with the UNESCO Culture Sector, UIS has established an expert group on the statistical measurement of the diversity of cultural expressions. As part of its work, three studies were commissioned, two of which were completed in 2009 while the third will be submitted in April 2010.

## **COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION STATISTICS**

22. Based on feedback from its international Working Group on ICT Statistics in Education (WISE), the Institute finalized a reference manual and reviewed results of a pilot survey in this area involving more than 30 countries.

23. The pilot survey tools and results have received broad endorsement by diverse international agencies. Notably, the United Nations Statistical Commission officially adopted the initial core set of ICT in education indicators prepared by the Institute.

24. In cooperation with UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP), the Institute is working with the University of Stirling in Scotland on a methodology for the Information Literacy (IL) Indicators Framework. It is now finalizing a series of recommendations on the methodological and operational feasibility of gathering information literacy data in a sustainable manner.

## **STATISTICAL CAPACITY-BUILDING (SCB) AND FIELD COORDINATION**

25. The Institute has implemented an ambitious project to manage its SCB programme and reinforce working relations with national statisticians. Through agreements with UNESCO Cluster Offices set up in 2009, the Institute has created new posts for statistical advisers in seven UNESCO Offices: Bamako, Dar es Salaam, Doha, Nairobi, New Delhi, Windhoek and Yaoundé. In addition, two assistant programme specialists are based at the Dakar Regional Bureau for Education in Africa (BREDA) and the Apia Cluster Office.

## **DATA PROCESSING AND STANDARDS**

26. The Institute has taken a lead role in developing the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) project, which is designed to improve data exchange between statistical organizations. UIS data updates are now automatically delivered to key clients, namely the World Bank and the United Nations Statistics Division (which is responsible for the MDGs and United Nations data).

27. Based on internal and external consultations, the Institute developed a framework to monitor its data quality. Key performance indicators have been defined and baseline data captured on UIS processes and products. Overall, initial results are positive, although trade-offs were made, for example, with strategic decisions to favour data accuracy over completeness.

## **REPORTING ITEMS**

28. The General Conference at its 35th session approved the UIS financial allocation for the next biennium (2010-2011) (35 C/Resolution 65), which amounted to \$9,128,600. This is higher than the last three biennial allocations of \$9.02 million.

29. For 2010, the Institute has confirmed contributions from the following countries/agencies: Canada, CIDA, DFID, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the World Bank. Denmark and Finland have expressed their interest in continuing to support UIS activities; however, there is no firm commitment or agreement at this time.

30. Currently UIS staff total 111, including 53 fixed posts, 24 appointments of limited duration (ALDs), 26 service contracts (SCs) and eight special service agreements (SSAs), of which 19 are based at UNESCO field offices located in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America.

31. In 2009, the Institute launched a pilot project to expand opportunities for General Service (GS) staff to acquire field experience in higher level positions. Three P-1 ALD positions were

created in: Apia, Samoa; Dakar, Senegal; and Santiago, Chile. The incumbents were required to resign from their fixed posts and accept ALD contract promotions.

32. The UIS staff retreat (September 2009) provided an ideal setting to conduct a competency assessment for all staff members. The results have allowed the Human Resources Officer to work individually with staff members to identify specific career development plans and set out tangible objectives while targeting personalized training needs for 2010.

### **PROPOSED DRAFT DECISION**

33. In the light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to consider a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling Article V.1(e) of the Statutes of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (30 C/Resolution 44) and 182 EX/Decision 19,
2. Having examined the report by the UIS Governing Board on the activities of the Institute since July 2009 (184 EX/7),
3. Takes note of the achievements of the Institute over the last six months and the fact that financial and administrative implications clearly fall within the parameters of document 34 C/5;
4. Invites the Director-General to continue to be guided by the recommendations made by the UIS Governing Board; and
5. Further invites the UIS Governing Board to report to it at its ... session.