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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.

Decision proposed: paragraph 34.

## 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 2011. Further details on any aspect of the work can be provided upon request.

## EDUCATION STATISTICS

3. The UIS released data via the website as scheduled in January, May and October 2011. The last release involved an extensive review of raw data and indicators, especially in light of the UNPD 2010 population revision.
4. The UIS provided data and metadata for statistical annexes for the Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report 2012 and for the upcoming UNESCO world report on technical and vocational education and training as well as for a wide range of UNESCO initiatives (gender and education forum, International Literacy Day, World Teachers' Day, etc.).
5. Data were provided to external partners, such as the World Bank for the World Development Indicators database and for the World Bank EdStats database and also to UNICEF for the *State of the World's Children* report. Data were also provided to regional partners, including the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Summit of the Americas.
6. The UIS is seeking to improve the policy-relevance of its data by producing regional indicators that directly correspond to the statistical needs and monitoring frameworks of regional organizations. The initiative is designed to create a sustainable public good that meets the specific needs of national governments and regional organizations.
7. In July 2011, the UIS launched a regional questionnaire on adult education in Latin American and Caribbean countries. The UIS is also processing results from its regional data collection in sub-Saharan Africa. It covers issues related to schooling conditions such as the availability of textbooks, toilets for girls, electricity and potable water, etc. As of October, the UIS received results from 31 out of 45 countries in the region and more data are expected. The indicators will be released with partners such as the ADEA and the African Union to a regional meeting of education ministers in March 2012 (COMEDAF V).
8. The text of the revised International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) was approved by Member States of UNESCO during the General Conference in November 2011. The UIS has started to train countries on how to implement the revised classification. The first international data collections based on the revised classification will begin in 2014.
9. The UIS capacity-building project to improve the production and use of education finance data has been expanded in sub-Saharan Africa and introduced in other regions, namely Latin America and the Caribbean in cooperation with UNESCO Santiago and IIEP Buenos Aires.
10. With UNICEF, the UIS has revised and expanded the conceptual and methodological framework for the Global Initiative on Out-of-school Children. In addition, four regional workshops were organized in and technical support provided to the 26 participating countries.
11. The UIS organized six regional training workshops in 2011 to improve the quality and use of education data at the national and international levels.

12. The UIS released the Global Education Digest 2011, which focused on “Secondary Education – the Next Great Challenge”. The report was launched at the United Nations with UNESCO New York organizing a panel discussion involving international experts, country experts and the United Nations Rapporteur on the Right to Education.

13. The UIS released another major statistical report on education financing in sub-Saharan Africa, which featured data from the related capacity-building project. Launch events were held in Washington, DC, Paris, New York and Dakar.

14. With the Education Sector, the UIS produced a new statistical atlas on gender disparities in education. The print publication will be complemented with an online interactive digital version available via the UIS website. Both products will be released on International Women’s Day.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

15. Over the past year, with UIS support four countries have completed the main assessment of the Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP). In addition, four countries have completed field trials and other six countries are implementing them with the Institute’s assistance.

16. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UIS are working together to lay the foundations to implement LAMP in selected refugees camps where people have been living for at least five years. Plans are currently under way to launch a literacy assessment among refugees from the Central African Republic who are based in a refugee camp in Chad. Based on this experience, the UIS and the UNHCR will be conducting similar assessments in other camps.

17. The UIS consulted a wide range of stakeholders in order to define the operational foundations of the new Observatory on Learning Outcomes which will:

- provide policymakers with the documentation required to make informed decisions concerning learning assessments and to make the most of data already available; and
- create a global database with comparable information on learning outcomes in order to foster collaboration among existing initiatives instead of duplicating efforts.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI) STATISTICS**

18. Results of the 4th global R&D survey were released in June 2011. The survey covered 213 countries and territories in partnership with the following regional organizations: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Eurostat and RICYT (the Latin American Network for S&T Indicators).

19. The UIS has developed an inventory of innovation surveys undertaken by developing countries over the past 15 years, which will be released on the UIS website. The UIS has also developed a pilot data collection instrument, which was tested by 18 developing countries. The UIS is analysing results.

20. OECD Member States have accepted the UIS submission of an annex to *The Proposed Standard Practice for Surveys of Research and Experimental Development* (commonly referred to as the Frascati Manual). The annex is specifically designed to help developing countries apply the standards and methodologies described in the manual.

21. The UIS is also taking steps to revise the concept of Scientific & Technological Activities, which has not been officially modified since it was first introduced in 1978. As a first step, a

consultant has proposed a new conceptual framework. The Institute has also started developing guidelines on how to undertake R&D and innovation surveys in developing countries.

22. The UIS organized three regional training workshops on science, technology and innovation indicators which involved 30 countries around the world.

## **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION STATISTICS**

23. The UIS regional questionnaire on ICT in education in Latin America and the Caribbean has received a 95% response rate. The results are being processed and will be analysed for a report. The next regional data collection in this area will take place in Asia and the Pacific.

24. The pilot-test of the revised media survey resulted in a very high response rate (93%) with data received from 28 out of the 30 participating countries representing all of the major regions. The UIS is processing and analysing the data.

25. The UIS has also contributed a revised set of indicators to monitor the targets associated with the World Summit for the Information Society. These indicators were published in a report published by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development.

## **CULTURE STATISTICS**

26. The 2010 UIS Feature Film Statistics Survey was completed in 2011 with new data for the reference years 2007-2009 on the cinema sector released on the UIS website. An analytical paper on the new data is being produced.

27. The UIS is preparing a study on different methodologies used to measure the economic contribution of culture. The Institute is also finalizing a new methodological document, entitled *Measuring Cultural Participation: A Global Handbook*, which will be released in early 2012.

28. The UIS continues to support Member States in the implementation of the UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics by providing training and technical advice.

## **OTHER REPORTING ITEMS**

29. The UIS launched its new website, which presents more detailed and varied types of news articles and features. In addition, the UIS is implementing a new social media with UNESCO Department of Public Information in order to improve the use of its data and publications. The online Data Centre was expanded with additional features and indicators.

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

31. In 2011, the Institute received contributions from the following governments/agencies: Canada, Quebec, CIDA, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, and the World Bank. In addition, the governments of Canada and Quebec, the Netherlands and the World Bank have already committed to provide contributions to the UIS in 2012. It is anticipated that other countries will continue to support the UIS in 2012 but there is no agreement at this time.

32. The final report for the External Audit of UIS accounts was presented to UNESCO's Executive Board (May 2011), which welcomed the positive assessment of the Institute's administrative management.

33. As of 1 December 2011, the UIS total number of employees is 121, including 51 fixed-term posts, 33 appointments of limited duration, 29 service contracts and 8 special service agreements, of which 24 are based outside of Montreal in Regional or Cluster Offices located in sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **PROPOSED DRAFT DECISION**

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

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 April 2011 (189 EX/7),
3. Takes note of the achievements of the Institute over the past months and the fact that financial and administrative implications clearly fall within the parameters of the current 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 191st session.