

**UNITED NATIONS
STATISTICS DIVISION**

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME**

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION & DEVELOPMENT**

**STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

**UNITED NATIONS FOOD &
AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION**

**Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics
Work Session on Water Statistics
(Vienna, 20-22 June 2005)**

INFORMATION NOTICE

I. BACKGROUND

Over the next few years, with the preparation of the second World Water Development Report and UNEP's fourth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4), demand for good, reliable water statistics will be higher than ever. Unfortunately the supply does not match the demand, and the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics¹, together with other main UN bodies working in the area of water (FAO, WWAP) agree that the time is ripe for an in-depth look at the need for water statistics at international level and how best to meet this need. The Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environment Agency) Austria kindly offered to host a special Work Session on Water Statistics to bring together experts from selected countries and organizations to discuss these issues.

II. AIMS AND EXPECTED OUTCOME

The aim of the Work Session is to improve the quality and quantity of data provided to international data users, for their reports and analyses. To do this, the work session will:

- a) look at the international need for water statistics and indicators, and at how the current water statistics questionnaires and the integrated environmental-economic accounting for water resources meet that need and countries own needs for water statistics;
- b) identify the problems countries encounter with the different sections of the questionnaires, that affect the response rate and data quality, e.g. problems with terminology, scope, concepts, definitions, methodologies, and
- c) look at how some countries get round these problems, i.e. exchange of information on best practices in water statistics, whether that is using innovative sources, estimation methods, modeling, etc.

¹ Current members of the IWG-ENV are: UNSD, UN-ECE, UNEP, Eurostat, and OECD. The secretariat of the IWG-ENV is provided by UNSD.

III. TIME AND PLACE OF THE MEETING

At the invitation of Umweltbundesamt, the meeting will take place at **Treustraße 35, Vienna², on 20-22 June 2005**. The meeting is expected to start at 9:00 on Monday, 20 June and to finish at 16:00 on Wednesday 22 June.

IV. MEETING PROGRAMME

Eight sessions of varying length are planned. The time allocated to each session will be determined by the number of discussion papers submitted to the Secretariat before the meeting. The topics of the sessions are as mentioned below, but the order of the sessions may change:

- (i) **The need for water statistics: information for water policies**
- (ii) **Water statistics collected by international organizations**
- (iii) **Information on water resources**
- (iv) **Information on water supply and use**
- (v) **Information on waste water generation and treatment**
- (vi) **Information on emission of pollutants to ambient waters**
- (vii) **Information on water quality**
- (viii) **Information needed for water pricing: expenditure on water**

For each session a session organiser has been appointed who is responsible for planning the professional content of the session and for inviting a limited number of papers. All participants, however, are encouraged to submit supporting papers for these topics. Discussants will also be designated for each session and asked to draw out the main points from all the papers submitted for the session. On the final day, there will be a Round Table discussion of the conclusions of the meeting on the adequacy of current data collection and best practices. Any recommendations from the group to the Statistical Commission on how to streamline data collection, and improve response rates and data availability, will also be discussed.

V. PARTICIPATION

Because of the specialised nature of the Work Session and in order to ensure the participation of a wide range of countries from all regions of the world, participation will be by invitation.

VI. DOCUMENTATION AND WORKING LANGUAGE

The meeting will be conducted in English only and papers should be submitted in English. Deadlines for contributions and other guidelines for authors can be found on the meeting website at <http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/iwg-env>. Meeting papers will be made available on the same site from mid-May onwards and will **only** be forwarded to those participants who have expressed the wish to receive the documents by mail on the registration form.

² City map (also with location) available on the Umweltbundesamthomepage:
www.umweltbundesamt.at/iwg-env

VII. HOTEL RESERVATIONS

For the convenience of delegates, Umweltbundesamt has arranged special conference prices, ranging from 57 - 270 Euro per night for a single room, with a number of hotels in Vienna.

See <http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/iwg-env> for more information and a hotel registration form. Please note that this is an independent hotel reservation service, managed by Austria Congress. All questions concerning hotel reservations are to be made directly to the hotel itself, and not to UNSD nor to Umweltbundesamt.

As June is a busy month in Vienna, participants are advised to reserve their hotel rooms as soon as possible, preferably **before end of March**. Reservations may be accepted after that date, but no guarantee can be given that the requested rooms will still be available.

VIII. TRANSPORT and TRAVEL INFORMATION

Participants must make their own travel arrangements, and must ensure that their travel documents are in order before travel. Participants from non-EU countries may require a visa for entry into Austria and should contact the diplomatic representation of **Austria** in their country of residence (or the country nearest to theirs) **as early as possible**. The Work Session organisers cannot obtain visas for participants. Acceptance of your registration for this Work Session does not automatically entitle you to a visa for Austria. Visa applications should refer to the **Umweltbundesamt/UNSD Work Session on Water Statistics (Vienna, Austria, 20-22 June 2005)**.

IX. INFORMATION ABOUT VIENNA

The official Vienna website can be found at <http://www.wien.info/> where information is available in a number of languages. A link to this page is available on the Work Session homepage: <http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/iwg-env>

XI. LOCAL ORGANIZERS OF THE MEETING

All queries to the local organisers should be addressed to:

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e-Mail:

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e-Mail for General requests:

UNSD@umweltbundesamt.at

MEETING REGISTRATION FORM
Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics
Work Session on Water Statistics
(Vienna, 20-22 June 2005)

This form should be completed **in duplicate** by each participant and returned, by e-mail or fax **by 15 April 2005** as follows:

One copy to:

Rosemary MONTGOMERY
Environment Statistics
UN Statistical Division,
FAX: (+1) 212 963 0623
E-MAIL: montgomery@un.org

One copy to:

Michael NAGY
Water department
Umweltbundesamt, Vienna
FAX: (+43) 1 313 04 3555
E-MAIL: UNSD@umweltbundesamt.at

Please complete the form in type or in block letters

1. Surname (family name) (Prof./Dr/Mr./Ms.)

.....

2. First name

.....

3. Nationality

.....

4. Title/post held

.....

5. Professional address

.....

.....

Telephone Fax

E-mail

6. Your name as you would like it to appear on your name tag

.....

6. Date of arrival in Vienna

7. Date of departure from Vienna

8. Accompanying persons (please specify number)

9. Please indicate if you are vegetarian: Yes No

10. Please indicate if you need to have the papers mailed because no access to the Internet:

Yes No

Date Signature