

# **Monitoring the Production of Statistical Indicators for the Development Agenda**

## **1. National and international development agendas**

### **1.1. What role does statistics play in monitoring the achievement of your country's development programs?**

Statistics reflects the social, economic and environmental conditions of the country and the information described by these statistics will help as a basic for making political decision and designing policies. Policies built on such information will be improved at setting the targets for their objectives, increasing efficiency and financial sustainability.

The development goals of the country and monitoring of its progress are extremely dependent on timely, comparable and reliable information.

Timely, comparable and reliable statistics can help governments make policy decisions for the well being of their people, assess on how successful policy decision making such as in economic development and planning on a more correct basis and motivate the interest of the private sector.

### **1.2. Does the NSO provide / coordinate the statistics used for monitoring the above program? If not, who does?**

Yes, we do.

Most of the indicators using for measuring the outcome of economic development based on information obtained from national surveys carried out by the CSO and administrative records as well as the output indicators based on information produced by line ministry statistical units. The CSO also acts as the coordinator in coordinating the statistical works of those statistical units under the line ministry by which the main concerns are on duplication, standards and

integration. The challenge to the CSO is on how to respond to the needs for monitoring and evaluation.

## **2. International standards**

### **2.1. Do you find international standards useful and do you try to apply them whenever possible? If not, please indicate why, and in which areas they are not being applied.**

International Standards are very useful and we apply them whenever possible. For example, we are applying Harmonized System Code in compiling trade statistics and we adopted International Standard Industrial Classification Revision 4 (ISIC rev 4.) and currently we are developing our own classifications – Myanmar Standard Industrial Classification (MSIC) based on ISCI rev.4.

### **2.2. Do you have an effective way of coordinating and imposing standards for statistics within your own country?**

Yes, we have. CSO generally provides statistics and other indicators by adopting standards and classification systems to ensure international comparability of data generated, and instituting statistical coordination mechanism that is geared towards these indicators which are in line with our national interests as inputs to policy setting and decision making for the specified areas.

It is just simply implementing a number of coordination mechanisms by forming task forces and working committees in order to address the issues on the standardization, definitions, collection, compilation, processing and dissemination of statistics and other indicators.

The task forces and working committees are composed of representatives from concerned line ministries and departments.

For the case of capacity building, CSO is collaborating with regional and international organizations.

CSO has been developing its own standards and the first version of Industrial Classification in Myanmar was adopted in 1954. This version was called “Burma Standard Industrial Classification (BSIC) and was prepared by Central Statistical and Economic Department (CSED) [now known as Central Statistical Organization(CSO)]. It was based on the original version of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) adopted in 1948.

For the classification of trade, the Burma Standard International Trade Classifications (BSITC) was drawn up by CSED in 1955. It was based on the United Nations Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) of 1950. BSITC was revised two times in 1960 and 1963.

The fourth revision of ISIC provides substantially more detail at all levels than the previous versions of the classification. This increased detail responds to requests by both producers and users of statistics. However, the basic coding system of the classification has not been changed.

The Myanmar Standard Industrial Classification-MSIC has been built based on ISIC rev-4 published by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and generally cover on all economic activities. The present MSIC consists (21) sections, (88) Divisions, (238) Groups, (466) Items and (1321) Industries (5 digits code for Myanmar Economic Sectors) respectively.

MSIC is intended to be a standard classification of productive activities. Its main purpose is to provide a set of categories that can be utilized for the collection and presentation on statistics.

**2.3. In what area, would you like to have more standards to be developed?**

Methodology

**2.4. Do you think the view of the developing countries taken sufficiently account in developing and agreeing on international statistical standards? If not, please suggest a mechanism for improvement.**

It would be better if we can take account of the views of the challenges that the developing countries are facing on the international statistical standards implementation such as

- insufficient relevance of the classification to national development goals;
- lack of resources to do require implementation;
- lack of qualify staff;
- insufficient guides and manuals to facilitate implementation; and
- insufficient workshops and training programs for implementation.

**3. Microdata Dissemination**

**3.1. Do you provide the following micro-data sets?**

**3.1.1. Population Census**

We(CSO) do not conduct the Population Census and Ministry of Immigration and Population is the focal ministry to conduct the Population Census.

**3.1.2. Household surveys**

Yes, we do. We provide aggregated data.

**3.1.3. Establishment /Enterprise Surveys(If yes, specify)**

Yes, we do. We provide aggregated data.