

# **International Household Survey Network (IHSN)**

## **Communiqué**

27 September 2004

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On September 27, 2004 the second meeting of the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) was held in Geneva. A list of the organizations represented at this meeting is included at the end of this communiqué. The objectives of the meeting were to formally establish the Network, and to discuss and agree on a program of activities to produce results in the short and medium term.

The goals of the International Household Survey Network are to promote the collection, dissemination, and use of sound data for decision-making and for monitoring development progress at national and international levels. Household surveys play a critical role in producing such data, but there is a consensus that more can be done to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of survey data and avoid duplication, reduce costs and alleviate the burden on national statistical systems. The group recognized the need for international organizations engaged in household surveys to better coordinate their activities and emphasized the importance of collaboration with country partners to ensure that national statistical needs are met.

The group agreed to establish the IHSN and to work towards its goals through a program of survey coordination, harmonization, and improved tools for archiving and dissemination of survey data and metadata. While focusing at first on achieving immediate results at the international level by increasing access to existing data sets and cooperation in the design and deployment of international surveys, the group stressed the importance of promoting the demand for and use of sound statistics and of enhancing national capacity for survey programs.

The group agreed that membership should be open to interested parties that share the goals of the IHSN while it seeks formal commitment by international organizations actively sponsoring household surveys.

The group agreed on a governance structure comprising a virtual secretariat and a small management group supported by a panel of experts. Funding for activities currently underway has been committed by founding members, but the management team will be responsible for preparing a funding plan for future activities.

**International Household Survey Network  
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Participating Organizations**

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Asian Development Bank

Centre d'Etudes de Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio-Economiques /  
International Networks for Studies in Technology, Environment, Alternatives,  
Development

Food and Agriculture Organization

International Labour Organization

Intersecretariat Working Group on Agriculture Statistics

Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

United Kingdom Department for International Development

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

United Nations Statistics Division

United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service

World Bank Group

World Health Organization