



Report on the Meeting of the *Washington City Group on Disability Statistics*

Date: Monday, June 3, 2002

Time: 3:15pm – 3:25pm

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What's a *City Group*?

- An independent, international advisory group to United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)
- To address a single topic on statistical and survey methods
- The life span of a City Group can be short or long.
- Membership is open to UN member countries.
- The “ticket” for inclusion in a City Group is participation (e.g., presentation, paper).
- Named after city where first meeting is held



Why a *City Group on Disability Statistics?*

- To address unresolved issues raised at the June 2001 UN International Seminar on Measurement of Disability
- A mechanism to foster discussion and generate international consensus
- Ultimate goal of measuring disability in a general and internationally comparable way



How was the meeting planned and organized?

- Planning Group: members from Australia, Eurostat, Mexico, Uganda & U.S.
- Agenda set by email, occasional conference calls
- 3-day meeting February 18-20, 2002 in Washington, D.C.
- Emphasize guided discussion for meeting sessions
- Session chairs prepared written discussion questions for the meeting



Formal Objectives of the *Washington City Group*

- To guide the development of a small set(s) of general disability measures suitable for use in censuses, sample-based national surveys and other statistical formats.
- To recommend one or more extended sets of survey items to measure disability (or principles for their design) to be used as components of population or specialty surveys.
 - Such measures will be culturally comparable.
 - The ICF model will be used as a framework to develop such measures.
- To address the methodological issues associated with the measurement of disability.



Areas of Agreement

- Crafting internationally comparable general disability indicators is important and possible.
- Develop multiple such measures relevant for multiple specific purposes
- Clearly link the purpose of measurement to operationalization of the indicator(s).



Areas of Agreement

- Short and long sets of measures should be developed with longer sets cross-walked to short set.
- Need for clear, specific definition of the aspect of disability to be measured.
- Need for flexibility in translating agreed-upon reference document.
- Specification of limitations of such measures
- Specification of how personal assistance & device use is treated in relation to measures.



Areas of Agreement

- The activity dimension of the ICF should be initial focus of such measures.
- Census and survey questions should avoid words with negative connotations, such as “disability.”
- Persons with disabilities should be included in the development of indicators.



Areas of Agreement

- The City Group should provide technical support for the development of internationally comparable general disability measures, including a research and testing program.
- Develop working networks among participants, including a process of technical assistance from higher resource to lower resource countries.



What's next?

- A full report of the meeting
 - Distributed to participants and UNSC
 - Report, agenda, and presentations,
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/citygroup.htm>
 - Special issue of *Research in Social Science & Disability*.
- Future meetings
 - Next meeting in 12-18 months may be in Europe, during the European Year of People with Disabilities
 - Up to 3 more meetings to complete objectives