

Economic Commission for Europe

The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) appreciates the efforts of OIOS to integrate the statistical work of the Commission into the review. Herein form the formal comments of ECE to the report.

ECE welcomes this well-written report which recognizes the role and importance of statistical work in the regional commissions. The report argues for more resources to be allocated to statistical work, which is highly appreciated, particularly in the light of the importance of statistics and data in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

At ECE, statistical production and dissemination of data occurs across our subprogrammes, and not just in the statistics subprogramme. While we acknowledge the scope of this exercise and the natural limitations for such reports, the sustainable energy, forestry, transport and environment all produce substantive mandated statistical outputs with direct relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals, which were, unfortunately in our opinion, given inadequate coverage in the final report. This is particularly important given the imperative of driving accessible and high-quality data for supporting member States to report on the broad range of thematic areas contained in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our specific responses to the recommendations follow:

Recommendation 1

We accept this recommendation, and would like to inform you that ECE recently finalized and published a document entitled “Recommendations on promoting, measuring and communicating the value of official statistics”, which includes eight strategic recommendations for countries.

Recommendation 2

We accept this recommendation, and will prepare a strategy to support the enhancement of capacities for key statistics developed for the ECE region.

Recommendation 3

We accept this recommendation and will review our existing efforts in this regard to determine where interventions can be delivered on integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into national statistical plans, within existing resources, including in our regular budget for technical cooperation.

Recommendation 4

We accept this recommendation and will engage in a discussion with other regional commissions to determine an action plan for ECE in line with this recommendation.

Recommendation 5

We accept this recommendation and, within the broader cooperation of the regional commissions, will review opportunities for increasing collaboration, within existing resources.

Based on clarification received from your office on 1 March 2017, we will prepare the recommendations action plan and revert to you.

ECE would like to take this opportunity to thank OIOS for the collaborative and constructive approach in this and other recent evaluations of the Commission.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) welcomes this comprehensive report, which recognizes the relevance of the statistical work done by the regional commissions. ECLAC accepts the recommendations and will prepare a recommendations action plan with a clear time frame for implementation.

ECLAC would like to take this opportunity to thank OIOS for the collaborative approach in this evaluation.

Recommendation 1

ECLAC accepts this recommendation. In the Latin American and Caribbean region this strategy is being defined jointly with member States of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and ECLAC. However, additional resources would be required in order to finance the participation of a higher number of substantive and technical national staff in regional workshops.

Recommendation 2

ECLAC accepts this recommendation. ECLAC is already working on a strategy to enhance its capacities to support key statistics in the environmental, gender and new statistical areas. However, the full implementation of this strategy requires the availability of additional resources to fund targeted recruitment of staff and temporary recruitment.

Recommendation 3

ECLAC accepts this recommendation. In the context of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, ECLAC is already working with member States in order to develop specific tools, guidelines, frameworks and templates to support the development and refinement of their national statistical plans in order to take into account the Sustainable Development Goals.

Recommendation 4

This recommendation is already being implemented at ECLAC. The CEPALSTAT governance project was defined in 2010 and a working group, coordinated by the Statistics Division, monitors existing statistical databases in