



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
General

ECE/CES/2006/39
22 May 2006

ENGLISH ONLY

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Fifty-fourth plenary session
Paris, 13-15 June 2006
Item 4(c) of the provisional agenda

PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Follow-up to decisions taken by the Bureau and the Conference

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The note on follow-up to decisions taken by the Bureau and the Conference has been prepared systematically since the October 2002. It is updated for each Bureau meeting and for the CES plenary session.
2. The present note follows up on the main decisions taken by the Bureau and Conference on which work is still not completed. Actions undertaken before June 2005 are summarised in a short form under History; decisions and follow-up from 2005 are given in more detail. Under each decision, the action to be taken is indicated.
3. The decisions are grouped in two sections: I. Decisions related to the work of the Conference and its Bureau; and II. Decisions related to the Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA/IP) and specific Statistical Activities (SAs).

II. DECISIONS RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS BUREAU

Progress of work and strategies of international organizations

4. History: at the June 2002 plenary session, it was agreed that, periodically, discussion should be devoted to the progress of work of international organizations and their strategies. The IMF presented its statistical activities to the Bureau in October 2003, the World Bank in October 2004 and Eurostat in October 2005.

Action: The Bureau asked the UNSD to present its statistical activities at the October 2006 meeting.

CES Seminars

Population and Housing Censuses

5. June 2005 plenary session: the Conference selected population and housing censuses as the topic for the CES seminar in 2006. The Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses is organising the seminar. The Bureau reviewed an outline of the seminar in October 2005 and in February 2006.

Action: the seminar will take place on Wednesday, 14 June 2006.

Human resources and training

6. June 2005 plenary session: the Conference selected human resources and training as the topic for the second CES seminar in 2006. Czech Republic is organising the seminar. The Bureau reviewed an outline of the seminar in October 2005 and in February 2006.

Action: the seminar will take place on Thursday, 15 June 2006.

Development and adoption of standards and recommendations by the Conference and its Bureau

7. February 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau discussed the procedure of developing and adopting various products (such as standards, recommendations). The Bureau approved the procedure proposed by the UNECE secretariat subject to some comments.

Action: the document (ECE/CES/2006/37) will be presented to the CES 2006 plenary session.

III. DECISIONS RELATED TO THE DATABASE OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES (INTEGRATED PRESENTATION) AND SPECIFIC STATISTICAL AREAS

Purpose, structure and compilation of the Database of International Statistical Activities

8. History: in October 2004, the Bureau approved the new classification of international statistical activities. The name of the database was changed to Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA/IP). The 2006 issue of the database has been prepared using the new classification.

February 2006 Bureau meeting: The Bureau discussed the issues and problems in international

statistical work in the UNECE region based on a paper prepared by the UNECE secretariat. The Bureau commented on the text and made suggestions for organizations to be contacted in areas where no expertise is available in UNECE.

Action:

i) Issues and problems: the UNECE secretariat will update the paper on issues and problems taking into account the comments by the Bureau, include information from the previous Rapporteur Reports and ask the identified organizations to fill in the gaps. The updated paper will be considered at the October 2006 meeting;

ii) DISA/IP: from 2006 on, the UNECE secretariat will include hyperlinks to the statistical programmes or other relevant documents of the member countries on the UNECE website.

Statistical Domain 1. Social statistics

9. History: the Bureau discussed social statistics at its October 2003, June 2004 and October 2004 meetings. Concern was expressed about harmonization of social statistics and international cooperation in this area. In February 2005, the Bureau supported the proposal for a joint UNECE/Eurostat meeting on social statistics. The first meeting took place on 29-30 September 2005.

October 2005 Bureau meeting: The Bureau reviewed the outcome of the Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD meeting of Directors of Social Statistics held in September 2005. The Bureau agreed with the proposed actions for future work. It was decided to establish a Task Force to examine emerging issues in social statistics. The Bureau was informed that the Chairman of the Task Force planned to begin work in November 2005.

Action: the Task Force will present progress report at the Bureau October 2006 meeting.

SA 1.1 Population and Migration

Migration statistics

10. History: in February 2006, the Bureau recommended that the joint UNECE/Eurostat seminar on migration statistics (21-23 March 2005, Geneva) create a Steering Group on migration statistics. The Bureau also recommended setting up a clearinghouse to maintain information on international projects in migration statistics. In June 2005, a Friends of the Chair group was set up to develop the Terms of Reference (TOR).

October 2005 Bureau: the Bureau endorsed the Work Plan to improve migration statistics developed by the US Census Bureau with input by Statistics Canada, and approved the TOR for the Task Force on Measuring Emigration.

February 2006 Bureau: The Bureau welcomed the progress of work in the implementation of the work plan on migration statistics and the Task Force.

Action: the Bureau will be regularly informed about the progress of work.

SA 1.2 Labour statistics

11. June 2005 plenary session: the countries' written comments to the Rapporteur Report on this issue indicated general support for priority to be given to measurement of working hours. Australia and Canada expressed interest in contributing to the work on developing supplementary questions that could be added to the Labour Force Survey to measure the actual hours worked.

February 2006 meeting: The Bureau approved the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Measurement of Quality of Work. ILO will act as the secretariat to the Task Force.

Action: the Task Force will submit progress reports to the Bureau.

SA 1.4. Health statistics

12. February 2006 Bureau meeting: The Bureau discussed a possible timing problem between the CES Task Force on Measurement of Health Status (the so-called Budapest initiative) and the Eurostat Regulation on health status measurement that the EU Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) is planning to approve in May.

Action: Eurostat will inform the Bureau about the Eurostat actions in this area after the SPC meeting.

SA 1.7 Human settlements and housing

13. History: in February 2004, the Bureau approved the Terms of Reference of the Steering Group on Human Settlements and Housing. The Bureau requested the Steering Group to prepare a programme of work and related timetable and to report to the Bureau of the CES and the Committee on Human Settlements (CHS).

Action: the UNECE activities on human settlements and housing statistics are discontinued as part of the UNECE reform.

SA 1.9 Culture statistics

14. History: in February 2003, the Bureau approved the proposal for the organization of a joint UNECE/UIS-UNESCO/Eurostat meeting in 2004-2005. The meeting was not included in the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2004-2006 because of lack of resources. In February 2005, the Bureau asked Eurostat to consider taking over the organization of this meeting.

February 2006 Bureau meeting: Eurostat informed that they are still considering the organization of the meeting on culture statistics. OECD is planning to hold a workshop on measuring the economic importance of culture.

Action: Eurostat will inform the Bureau at a future meeting

SA 2.1. Macroeconomic statistics

15. February 2006 Bureau meeting: The Bureau approved the proposal for the external assessment of the UNECE macroeconomic database and gender database in 2006.

Action: Bureau will be informed about the results of the assessment in October 2006.

SA 3.1 Environment statistics

16. History: at the February 2002 and October 2002 meetings, the Bureau noted the need for better coordination of the data collection in environment statistics. This topic was briefly considered at the February and October 2003 meetings and discussed in depth at the CES 2004 plenary session. The Conference asked the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (IWG-ENV) to review the issues related to overlaps in data collection and to identify the actions to be taken to improve coordination. In February 2005, the Bureau was informed that

there is no progress and decided to discuss environment statistics at a future meeting.
February 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau discussed the topic based on a paper prepared by the IWG-ENV and presented by Eurostat.

Action: Eurostat will update the paper taking into account the comments made by the Bureau. The updated paper will be posted on the UNECE website.

SA 3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues

17. June 2005 plenary session: in countries' written comments to the Rapporteur Report on this issue, it was proposed that a workshop be organized to develop an agenda for future action.

October 2005 Bureau meeting: it was noted that one possibility is to undertake the work within the Social Statistics Project.

Action: the joint UNECE/Eurostat meeting on Social Statistics will consider how to deal with this issue.

SA 3.3.4 Globalization

18. History: as a follow-up to the CES Seminar on Globalization in June 2003, an experiment on measuring the activities of the multinational enterprises (MNE) was carried out. Progress reports were presented at the June 2004 plenary session and at the October 2004 Bureau meeting.

June 2005 plenary session: the Conference agreed with the proposal to terminate the MNE project in its current configuration. The project was taken over by Eurostat. The Bureau considered it important to ensure that the non-EU members are kept fully informed about this work.

Action: Eurostat will inform regularly the Bureau about the project. The Rapporteur Report on globalisation is also presented to the 2006 CES plenary session for information.

SA 3.3.5 Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals

19. History: the October 2004 Bureau discussed the country reporting on indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). A UNECE survey of the situation in the region was considered necessary. In February 2005, the Bureau discussed how to achieve the political recognition of the role of official statistics in the MDG process.

October 2005 Bureau meeting: the Bureau was informed of the UNECE survey to assess the capacity of countries to report on MDGs.

Action: (i) the UNECE secretariat will inform the Bureau about the results of the survey at a future meeting;

(ii) a meeting on Challenges in the Monitoring of MDG in South-Eastern-European and CIS countries will take place in Paris on 13 June 2006, a.m.

SA 3.3.6 Sustainable development

20. June 2005 plenary session: the Conference agreed that further work is needed in the area of measuring sustainable development and asked a group of countries to develop terms of reference for the work.

October 2005 Bureau meeting: The Bureau approved the creation of a UNECE/OECD Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development.

February 2006 Bureau meeting: The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Steering Committee on Sustainable Development and the work plan for the UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Sustainable Development. The Working Group will report both to the CES and the OECD Committee on Statistics.

The Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development (WGSSD) met on 3-4 April 2006 in Luxembourg. The Steering Committee for WGSSD had its first meeting in March 2006 and the second meeting on 9-10 May 2006 in Paris.

Action: (i) the Steering Committee will report about the progress of work at the Bureau 2006 October meeting;

(ii) progress report will be presented to the CES plenary session in June 2007.

SA 4.3.1 Population and housing censuses

21. History: in October 2003, the Bureau approved the terms of reference for a Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses and reviewed the work plan for preparing the new set of recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses. The Bureau reviewed progress reports in February and October 2004 and February 2005.

June 2005 plenary session: the Conference selected Population Censuses to be the topic for one of the seminars at the 2006 CES plenary session.

Action: the Conference is expected to adopt the CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing at its 2006 plenary session.

(See also: para 5 on the CES seminar on population and housing censuses.)

SA 4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection

22. History: as a follow-up to the CES Seminar on Statistical Confidentiality and Microdata in June 2003, a Task Force was created to develop a set of guidelines for confidentiality protection (the Terms of Reference approved in October 2003). Progress reports were presented to the Bureau in February and October 2004, February and October 2005, and to the Conference in June 2004 and 2005.

February 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau approved the document as Interim Guidelines.

Action: i) the Guidelines are submitted for endorsement to the CES plenary session in June 2006;

ii) after endorsement, UNECE will publish the Guidelines and will link the Guidelines to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

iii) UNSD will consider including the Guidelines in their database of good practices in official statistics.

SA 5.5 Management and development of technological resources

23. June 2005 plenary session: the Conference considered it useful to establish a working group to further explore the issues surrounding EDR.

October 2005 Bureau meeting: the Bureau approved the TOR for the work of the Task Force.

February 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau approved the work plan for the Task Force.

Action: the Task Force will prepare a report for the June 2007 Plenary Session of the Conference.

SA 5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building

24. February 2005 Bureau meeting: the Bureau requested UNECE, Eurostat and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS to prepare a proposal on how to improve the coordination of technical assistance in the UNECE region.

October 2005 Bureau meeting: the Bureau discussed the proposal prepared by UNECE and Eurostat and a separate note prepared by CIS-STAT. The Bureau asked for a revised version of the paper to be prepared to take into account comments of the October 2005 meeting.

February 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau approved the coordination of technical cooperation in UNECE region based on the paper by UNECE secretariat.

Action: the paper (ECE/CES/2006/3) will be presented to the CES plenary session for information.

* * * * *