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Geneva, 11-13 June 2007
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

INFORMATION ON TOPICS FOR IN-DEPTH REVIEW BY THE CES BUREAU

Note by the secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. Traditionally, the CES Bureau makes an in-depth review of selected statistical areas at its February meetings. The in-depth review focuses on issues and problems concerning international coordination. It is a tool enabling the Bureau to carry out its mandate as an executive body of the Conference, that is, to promote the coordination of international statistical activities in the region, to avoid duplication of work and address emerging issues.

2. In October 2006 and February 2007, the Bureau decided to focus the review on strategic issues in the next five or so years rather than reviewing the current issues and problems, and agreed on a new procedure for the selection of topics. The selection is done before the Conference in June and presented to the CES plenary session for information. The criteria for selecting a topic or a group of topics for the review are that:

- a) there are significant developments in the area;
- b) there are significant coordination issues;
- c) there is a lack of activities at the international level.

3. The topics for in-depth review are selected based on the 55 statistical areas that are identified in the classification of international statistical activities maintained by UNECE and used in the Database on International Statistical Activities (see Annex).

4. Through an electronic consultation in May 2007, the Bureau identified possible topics to

be reviewed in-depth in October 2007 and February 2008. The Bureau will make the final selection at a Bureau meeting during the CES plenary session on 11-13 June 2007. Following the selection of the topics, the Bureau will ask either a Bureau member, the UNECE, an international organization or a NSO to do a short review paper. The Conference will be informed about the outcome of the discussion in June 2008.

II. POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION AT THE CES BUREAU MEETINGS IN OCTOBER 2007 AND FEBRUARY 2008 – RESULTS OF THE CES BUREAU CONSULTATION IN MAY 2007

Possible topics:

- **Income (1.5) + labour costs (2.8) + living conditions and poverty (3.3.1)**
It is a multi-domain subject, links also to business and economic statistics; there are different coordination and coherence issues relating to different definitions and data sources
- Statistical programmes; coordination within statistical systems (5.2), including discussion on coordination arrangements between the NSOs, central banks and ministries of finance.
Issues to be covered could include harmonization of statistical programs (including the need to implement the new macroeconomic statistics standards), data sharing arrangements (if any), legal underpinnings, staffing arrangements, etc. The outcome could be identification of best practices which could be shared among countries.
- Gender and special population groups (3.3.2)
2007 is a year equal opportunities and this is a good reason to review this field of statistics.
- **Coordination of international statistical work (5.6)**
Many issues: does it work well from the national statistical offices/international organizations point of view; are we aware of all the different tools, mechanisms, fora; is it efficient enough etc.
- Household surveys (4.3.3)
A lot of different issues; perhaps conditional depending on the subjects of CES seminars 2008.
- Science and technology (2.9)
This set of statistics is very important for monitoring the Lisbon strategy and also of a great interest for EC region as a whole.

- Culture statistics (1.9)
Very few international activities.
- **Population and migration (1.1)**
There are significant developments in the area.
- *Environment (3.1)*
This topic will become extremely important in the years to come. As this field needs to be strongly further developed and coordinated, a detailed discussion will be needed in about a year.

The Conference will be informed orally about the decision of the Bureau on the topics.

ANNEX

New UNECE Classification of International Statistical Activities

Domain 1: Demographic and social statistics

- 1.1 Population and migration
- 1.2 Labour
- 1.3 Education
- 1.4 Health
- 1.5 Income and consumption
- 1.6 Social protection
- 1.7 Human settlements and housing
- 1.8 Justice and crime
- 1.9 Culture
- 1.10 Political and other community activities
- 1.11 Time-use

Domain 2: Economic statistics

- 2.1 Macroeconomic statistics
- 2.2 Economic accounts
- 2.3 Business statistics
- 2.4 Sectoral statistics
 - 2.4.1 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries
 - 2.4.2 Energy
 - 2.4.3 Mining, manufacturing, construction
 - 2.4.4 Transport
 - 2.4.5 Tourism
 - 2.4.6 Banking, insurance, financial statistics
- 2.5 Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics
- 2.6 International trade and balance of payments
- 2.7 Prices
- 2.8 Labour cost
- 2.9 Science and technology

Domain 3: Environment and multi-domain statistics

- 3.1 Environment
- 3.2 Regional and small area statistics
- 3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators
 - 3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues
 - 3.3.2 Gender and special population groups
 - 3.3.3 Information society
 - 3.3.4 Globalisation
 - 3.3.5 Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals

- 3.3.6 Sustainable development
- 3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia

Domain 4: Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis

- 4.1 Metadata
- 4.2 Classifications
- 4.3 Data sources
 - 4.3.1 Population and housing censuses; registers of population, dwellings and buildings
 - 4.3.2 Business and agricultural censuses and registers
 - 4.3.3 Household surveys
 - 4.3.4 Business and agricultural surveys
 - 4.3.5 Other administrative sources
- 4.4 Data editing and data linkage
- 4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing
- 4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection
- 4.7 Data analysis

Domain 5: Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics

- 5.1 Institutional frameworks and principles; role and organization of official statistics
- 5.2 Statistical programmes; coordination within statistical systems
- 5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices
- 5.4 Management and development of human resources
- 5.5 Management and development of technological resources (including standards for electronic data exchange and data sharing)
- 5.6 Coordination of international statistical work
- 5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building

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