1928

The first Conference on Statistics in Geneva under the League of Nations – 40 countries participated

1931

The Committee of Statistical Experts – the former CES Bureau met in 1931-1939, including Canada, US, UK, Italy, France, Norway, Switzerland, Poland and Germany
Milestones of the Conference

The first Conference in 1928 under the League of Nations held in Geneva
The League of Nations published for 26 countries the first more or less harmonized national income estimates.

First sub-committees were established – on traded commodities, classification of commodities and on statistics on prices, industry, timber, tourism, finance and housing.

1931

1939
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was created in 1945.


Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) was founded in 1947, later becoming the OECD.
First Regional Meeting of European Statisticians (RMES) in Geneva jointly with the UN Statistical Commission.

Second Regional Meeting of European Statisticians (RMES) in Geneva.

Third Meeting of European Statisticians was named the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) – Mr. Idenburg of the Netherlands the first Chair.
Milestones of the Conference

The Conference in early 1950s
Mr. Barrie Davies, Director of the ECE Statistical Division and the Chairman of the meeting from the Netherlands
Idenburg, 21 May 1949, in the Netherlands explained -

‘As to the Dutch contributions to all these bodies... the efforts required are considerable... However, we cannot stand aside, because it cannot be ignored that a new world-order is being built.’
The US Census Bureau presented data processing with ‘electronic machines’ – some called for a cautious attitude towards ‘such large-scale centralized computers’

The Conference provided a non-political bridge across the divide of the Iron Curtain

A permanent CES programme on Electronic Data Processing was initiated

The birth of the **Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC)** – a great impact with the first Labour Force Survey (1960), energy balance sheets (1962) and input-output tables (1965), European (SEC) System of National Accounts (1970) and the commodity classification (1972) etc.
1970
Programme on environment was launched – towards a GNP that takes into account changes in the environment

First CES seminar on coordination problems in official statistics in Washington D.C.

1977

Second CES seminar on the use of information technology in Moscow

1979
Conference launched a project with Eurostat and OECD on the "International Comparison Project for the European region"

1981
Milestones of the Conference

The Fundamental Principles

- Gorbachev is elected Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet
- Fall of the Berlin Wall
- 1985
- 38th Conference, with Carlo Malaguerra as the Chairman, requested Poland to **begin work on a draft European Statistical Convention** on the Fundamental Principles
- 1989
- 1st meeting of the **working group** in Paris – Poland as lead country and participation of Bulgaria, France, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Eurostat and the International Statistical Institute (ISI)
- 1990
- CES consultation seminar "to initiate re-considering of the role of the Conference"
- CES transition workshop pointed out the need for "Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics, applicable to all countries"

The 3rd meeting of the working group in Budapest and a CES seminar discussed the draft document on Fundamental Principles.

The Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) was established.

Common declaration of Russia-Belarus-Ukraine about USSR no longer existing – rebuilding of statistical systems started and became one of the priorities for ECE.

The 47th session of the ECE adopted the Resolution on Fundamental Principles as Decision C (47).

The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics were adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in New York.

The 2nd meeting of the working group in Warsaw on Convention on Fundamental Principles.

The 1991 meeting of the working group in Warsaw on Convention on Fundamental Principles.

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Milestones of the Conference

1992

ECE-Eurostat-OECD “Joint Programme Review” meetings were initiated to resolve issues of coordination of the statistical work in the region.

The Conference started convening at OECD in Paris every second year at the invitation of OECD.

1994
Milestones of the Conference

2002

Conference celebrated 50 years of history and **restructured**: 2 seminars and half a day for a formal session

2003

First seminar was on **globalization** – led in 2005 to a review of globalization statistics and in 2007 to a group working on the impact of globalization

2005

Seminar on **sustainable development** – in 2009 resulted in a publication on “Measuring Sustainable Development” and to further work

2006

Second seminar on **statistical confidentiality and microdata** – in 2009 resulted in the “Principles and Guidelines on Confidentiality Aspects”

2007

Seminar on **increasing the efficiency and productivity of statistical offices** – later led to the “High-Level Group for Strategic Development of Business Architecture in Statistics”

2008

Seminar on **population and housing censuses** – adopted the CES recommendations for the 2010 round of Censuses and in 2008 resulted in a publication on “Measuring Population and Housing - Practices of UNECE Countries in the 2000 Round of Censuses”
Milestones of the Conference

Seminar on measuring population movement and integration in a globalized world – resulted in several guidelines published between 2010 - 2012

Seminar on measurement of international transactions – in 2011 resulted in the guidelines on “The Impact of Globalization on National Accounts”

Seminar on the Impact of global crises on statistical systems

The Conference holds its 60th plenary session and marks 20 years from the adoption of the Fundamental Principles