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**Economic Commission for Europe****Conference of European Statisticians****Sixty-first plenary session**

Geneva, 10-12 June 2013

Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Programme planning documents for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistics subprogramme 2014-2015****Draft Programme of Work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2014-2015****Note prepared by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2014–2015. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (“the Conference”) considered the programme and adopted it at its meeting in February 2013. This document is then submitted to the Conference and to the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Committee (EXCOM) for formal approval. The Conference will have the opportunity to adjust its programme of work during the course of the biennium and such adjustments will be reflected in a separate document.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based approach. It comprises, for each cluster of activities, an expected accomplishment and a list of outputs/activities proposed to be carried out in 2014–2015. The delivery of these outputs/activities is expected to contribute to achieving the expected results.
3. The grouping of activities into clusters is exactly the same as used by the Committee for the biennial evaluation of its subprogramme performance. The correlation between the ECE Strategic Framework and the cluster framework used for subprogramme biennial evaluation for 2014–2015 is shown in document ECE/CES/2013/17.
4. Furthermore, the outputs/activities listed in this document correspond with the ECE proposed programme budget for 2014–2015 and are complemented by additional items to reflect the more recent developments and needs of ECE member States. For easy reference, such new outputs/activities have been clearly indicated as “additional”.
5. The outputs/activities have been listed under the cluster of activities to which they belong according to the following main categories: (a) meetings and related parliamentary

documentation; (b) publications and other information material; and (c) technical cooperation, including, seminars, workshops, training sessions, advisory services.

6. The relevant indicators of achievement, together with baseline and target data, against which performance will be measured, are presented in document ECE/CES/2013/17.

7. Finally, Annex I to the present document lists the ECE overall legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme.

## **II. Objective and strategy**

8. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Statistical Division. The subprogramme aims to improve the quality of official statistics for evidence based economic, social and environmental policy making, and for assessing progress towards international development goals.

9. Coordinating international statistical activities in the region will remain a central component of the strategy under the subprogramme. The strong involvement of national statistical organizations in setting the priorities will ensure that the work focuses on issues of current concern for countries. Cooperation with the statistical services of other international organizations will continue in the form of joint meetings and working groups to develop methodologies, standards, recommendations and best practices. The subprogramme will maintain a Database of International Statistical Activities as a tool to support coordination.

10. The subprogramme will focus on a selected number of subject areas, in particular those where ECE can provide added value and complement the international statistical work. The work will be undertaken in close cooperation with experts from ECE member States and international organizations in the form of expert groups that perform specific tasks within a set time frame. The work will result in the development of methodological and practical guidelines and leading practices in statistics, including training materials available on the Web. Public access to all related documents will ensure transparency and accountability.

11. The subprogramme will provide support to the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as South-East Europe regarding existing United Nations standards and best practices and their implementation at the national level. To this end, the subprogramme will promote the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and provide advice on institutional frameworks of official statistics, for example, by conducting global assessments of national statistical systems. The advisory work will be demand-driven, focusing on areas where United Nations standards and recommendations exist, such as population censuses, the Millennium Development Goals, national accounts, prices, business statistics, gender disaggregated statistics, environmental indicators and streamlining statistical production.

12. The subprogramme will collect and disseminate economic and social data, including on progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and gender equality. Data will be accessible to the public on the Internet. A quality framework will ensure the relevance, timeliness and user-friendliness of data dissemination. The data will offer insights into national statistics and help to identify priorities for improvement of the quality and comparability of official statistics.

### III. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the biennium 2014-2015

#### Cluster 1

#### Coordination of international statistical work in the ECE region

<i>Description of cluster</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
Ensure coordination of international statistical activities in the ECE region and advocate for the UN Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics. Provide a forum for the Heads of national and international statistical organizations to address issues of current interest, exchange experience, and develop standards and recommendations to improve national statistics and their international comparability. Provide secretariat support for the Conference and its Bureau.	Streamlined international statistical work

#### Outputs/activities

(a) *Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

- 1.1 Conference of European Statisticians: 62<sup>nd</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup> plenary sessions (10 half days).
- 1.2 Bureau of the Conference (14).

Documentation: Reports of the Conference (2); Papers for the coordination of international statistical work in the ECE region (12); Papers on issues of interest to the heads of national statistical offices (12).

(b) *Publications and other information material*

- 1.3 Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA) as a tool to support coordination of international statistical work (2).
- 1.4 Booklets and information materials on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the Conference of European Statisticians and integrated work programme (4 booklets).

(c) *Technical cooperation*

- 1.5 Meeting of the Project Working Group on Statistics under the UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) (1, external funding, see item 6.2) to coordinate capacity building activities and ensure that they reflect the priorities of the countries.

## Cluster 2

### Methodological work in economic statistics

<i>Description of cluster</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
Develop and promote international standards, guidelines and recommendations to improve the quality and comparability of economic statistics, particularly in national accounts, globalization, price statistics, business registers and short-term statistics. This is done by analyzing the implementation of standards and guidelines and exchanging experience between countries. The work results in methodological and practical guidelines, collections of good practices and training materials. Provide secretariat support to the Teams of Specialists working in the area.	Updated and newly developed standards, methodologies and practices to enhance international comparability of economic statistics

#### Outputs/activities

(a) *Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

2.1 Meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts, in collaboration with Eurostat and OECD, (8) to develop practices for implementation of the System of National Accounts.

2.2 Meeting on Consumer Price Indices, in collaboration with ILO, (6) to discuss methodological issues, the use of new (electronic) data sources and good compilation practices.

2.3 Meeting on Business Registers, in collaboration with Eurostat and OECD, (4) to discuss methodological issues and the implementation of the international guidelines on business registers.

2.4 Seminar on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (4) and development of the related economic statistics.

Documentation: Papers for intergovernmental meetings on economic statistics (8).

(b) *Publications and other information material*

2.5 Studies on Global Production (1, in the series Statistical Monographs).

2.6 Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers (1, in the series Statistical Standards and Studies).

(c) *Technical cooperation*

2.7 Workshop or seminar on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts and improvement of the related economic statistics including challenges caused by the impact of globalisation (1, external funding, to be confirmed, see item 6.2).

### Cluster 3

#### Methodological work in social and demographic statistics

<i>Description of cluster</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
Develop and promote international standards, guidelines and recommendations to improve the quality and comparability of social and demographic statistics, particularly in areas of population and housing censuses, migration, gender, crime, quality of employment, and indicators on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This is done by analyzing the implementation of standards and guidelines and exchanging experience between countries. The work results in methodological and practical guidelines, collections of good practices and training materials. Provide secretariat support to the Teams of Specialists working in the area.	Updated and newly developed standards, methodologies and practices to enhance international comparability of social and demographic statistics

#### Outputs/activities

##### (a) *Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

3.1 Two meetings of the Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses (8) to work towards recommendations for the 2020 census round, in collaboration with Eurostat.

3.2 Two meetings of the Group of Experts on Register-based Censuses (8) to work towards recommendations for register-based censuses, in collaboration with Eurostat.

3.3 Two workshops on population censuses (4) to elaborate specific aspects of the CES recommendations for the 2020 round of population censuses.

3.4 Work session on Migration Statistics (6) to facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries and to review and methodological work on migration statistics, in collaboration with Eurostat.

3.5 Workshop on migration statistics (4) to discuss the use of population censuses and household surveys to measure international migration.

3.6 Work session on Gender Statistics (6) exchange experiences among countries and to review and progress the methodological work on gender statistics.

3.7 Workshop on Gender Statistics (2) to promote applying the gender perspective in national statistical systems.

3.8 Meeting of the Task Force on ageing-related statistics (4) to improve the statistical data in support of ageing-related policymaking.

3.9 Regional meeting on MDG indicators (4) to share good practices in the production and use of these indicators.

Documentation: Papers for intergovernmental meetings on social and demographic statistics (20); Papers for the regional meeting on MDG indicators (2).

##### (b) *Publications and other information material*

3.10 Conference of European Statisticians recommendations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses (1, in the series Statistical Standards and Studies).

- 3.11 Measurement of socio-economic conditions of migrants (1, in the series Methodological Materials).
- 3.12 Studies on statistics on population ageing (1, in the series Statistical Monographs).
- 3.13 Measuring Quality of Employment (1, in the series Methodological Materials).

(c) *Technical cooperation*

- 3.14 Workshop on the preparation for the 2020 round of population censuses and the production of better migration data in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (1, external funding, to be confirmed, see item 6.2).
- 3.15 Workshop in interregional cooperation to strengthen national capacities to measure progress in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, UN Development Account project of the 8<sup>th</sup> tranche for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (1, see item 6.2).
- 3.16 Workshop to enhance the development outcomes of migration: strengthening the evidence base at the national, regional and global level, UN Development Account project proposed for the 9<sup>th</sup> tranche, led by the DESA Population Division (1, see item 6.2).
- 3.17 Training for developing a survey module on migration and remittances to attach to existing household surveys, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and the World Bank (1, external funding, to be confirmed, see item 6.2).

#### **Cluster 4**

### **Methodological work in environment and sustainable development statistics**

<i>Description of cluster</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
Work towards harmonization of approaches to measuring sustainable development, improve environmental indicators of East European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries, and support development of climate change related statistics in national statistical offices. The work results in methodological reports, practical guidelines, collections of good practices and training materials. Provide secretariat support to the Teams of Specialists working in the area.	Updated and newly developed standards, methodologies and practices to enhance international comparability of environment and sustainable statistics

#### **Outputs/activities**

(a) *Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

- 4.1 Meetings of the Intersectoral Task Force on Environmental Indicators, in collaboration with ECE Environment Division to review methodologies and time series of selected environmental indicators (12).
- 4.2 Meetings on Climate Change Related Statistics (4) to increase the usefulness of official statistics to climate change analysis.
- Documentation: Papers for intergovernmental meetings on environment and sustainable development statistics and related areas (4).

*(b) Publications and other information material*

4.3 Recommendations on climate change related statistics (1, in the series Methodological Materials).

4.4 Contributions to the United Nations-driven work on statistics of climate change and sustainable development (2).

*(c) Technical cooperation*

4.5 Training to strengthen national capacities of the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to produce data on the environment and sustainable development (1, external funding, to be confirmed, see item 6.2).

## **Cluster 5**

### **Methodological work in cross-cutting issues of official statistics**

<i>Description of cluster</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
Develop and promote international standards, guidelines and recommendations to modernize statistical production in statistical organizations, particularly in the areas of management of information systems, data editing, confidentiality, metadata, dissemination and communication. Standardize electronic data interchange, in particular, develop and promote the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX). Promote good practices in human resources management in statistical offices. The work is done by analyzing the implementation of standards and guidelines and exchanging experience between countries. The work results in methodological and practical guidelines, collections of good practices and training materials. Provide secretariat support to the Teams of Specialists working in the area.	Updated and newly developed standards, methodologies and practices to enhance international comparability of statistics on cross-cutting issues

**Outputs/activities***(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

5.1 Work session on Statistical Data Editing (5) to share ideas and good practices in the automation of data editing.

5.2 Meetings on the Management of Statistical Information Systems, in collaboration with Eurostat and OECD, (10) to facilitate the sharing of software, ideas and experience between statistical organizations.

5.3 Work Sessions on Statistical Communication (10) to exchange best practices and prepare a new guide to improving statistical literacy.

5.4 Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality (5) to share ideas and good practices in this field.

5.5 Meetings in the area of Modernization of Statistical Production, (4) for example on data collection to identify needs for further work towards common tools and methods.

5.6 Workshop on Human Resources Management and Training (5) and how it can contribute to the modernisation of official statistics.

5.7 Work Session on Statistical Metadata (5) to further develop the Common Metadata Framework and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model.

Documentation: Papers for intergovernmental meetings on statistical information systems (8).

(b) *Publications and other information material*

5.8 Annual sets of press releases, including articles in the *ECE Weekly* on the occasion of meetings and the issuance of publications (2).

5.9 Maintenance of the website, collaborate websites (wikis) and knowledge bases to facilitate the groups of experts and information on activities related to the subprogramme (2).

5.10 Contribution to international work to develop standards for statistical data and metadata exchange (2).

(c) *Technical cooperation*

5.11 Training for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and South East Europe on the modernization of statistical production to strengthen the national capacity for the sustainable development of statistics, UN Development Account project proposed for the 9<sup>th</sup> tranche (1, see item 6.2).

## **Cluster 6**

### **Capacity building to United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member countries**

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
<p>Ensure the production and dissemination of official statistics according to international standards and guidelines, including the advocacy for sound legal and institutional framework for national statistical systems in the South-East European and East European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries.</p> <p>Support the implementation and coordinate the capacity building activities undertaken under the Statistics subprogramme described in the other clusters. Conduct Global Assessments of national statistical systems to provide a clear picture of the state of development of official statistics in the countries to help them programme development of statistics and enable planning of support based on the needs.</p>	<p>Improved national capacities to implement international standards in official statistics, including Millennium Development Goals and gender-sensitive indicators, by ECE member States, particularly by those with less advanced statistical systems</p>

#### **Outputs/activities**

(a) *Technical cooperation*

Enhancing the capacity of national statistical systems to meet international standards and guidelines, in particular the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, by:

6.1 Consultations with the management of national statistical offices in the form of Global Assessments at the request of countries in order to assess the national statistical system, in collaboration with Eurostat and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) (2).

6.2 Capacity building workshops within externally funded projects (5) and within the framework of UN Development Account projects (4) as listed in the respective clusters 2-5 and 7.

6.3 Advisory services and consultations with experts in national statistical offices to address country specific needs at the request of countries (3).

## **Cluster 7**

### **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Database**

<i>Description of cluster</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
Provide reliable, timely and comparable macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics in an online database for the ECE countries in English and Russian, including data on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and gender equality.	Improved availability in the ECE database of reliable, relevant, timely and comparable statistics, including Millennium Development Goals
The database provides source data for publications and articles on the economic and social development of the ECE region, and helps identify priorities for ECE methodological work. The database provides a strategic resource for other ECE programmes to store and disseminate data.	indicators and gender disaggregated data, to support evidence-based policymaking of ECE member States

#### **Outputs/activities**

(a) *Publications and other information material*

7.1 Updated ECE gender statistics database available online (2) including data on gender, population, families and households, work and the economy, education, public life, health and mortality, crime and violence, science and Information and Communication Technology as well as work-life balance.

7.2 Updated ECE macroeconomic statistics database available online (2) including data on national accounts, industrial production, labour force and wages, price indices, and external economic relations. A set of globalization indicators will be launched building on existing data.

7.3 Updated ECE database on MDG indicators (2) including national MDG indicators covering all eight goals.

7.4 Updated ECE database on environment and related indicators (2).

7.5 Contribution to international work on developing and harmonizing statistical methodology in the form of online clearinghouse of international migration data for Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries to help reconcile the differences between immigration and emigration data of these countries (2).

7.6 Annual sets of *Facts and Figures* articles in *ECE weekly* on socio-economic development in the ECE region based on the statistical database (2 booklets).

7.7 Publication *UNECE Countries in Figures 2015* (1) on the economic and social development in the ECE countries.

(b) *Technical cooperation*

7.8 Training for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in setting-up and maintaining online dissemination databases and user-friendly data extraction software as part of the project on the modernization of statistical production, UN Development Account project proposed for the 9<sup>th</sup> tranche (1, see item 6.2).

## Annex I

### Legislative mandates

#### A. Overall United Nations Economic Commission for Europe legislative mandates with relevance to the statistics subprogramme

##### 1. General Assembly resolutions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/253	World Summit on Sustainable Development
57/270 B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
61/210	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
62/208	Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
63/281	Climate change and its possible security implications
64/141	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
64/210	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
64/217	Women in development
65/1	Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals
65/10	Sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for poverty eradication and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
65/174	Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)
65/313	Follow-up to the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development
66/197	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
66/200	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

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66/210	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
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## 2. Economic and Social Council resolutions

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<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/14	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
2006/38	Work plan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2009/12	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2009/28	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council
2009/29	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16

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## 3. Economic and Social Council decisions

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<i>Dec No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1997/224	Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe and Plan of Action

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## 4. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

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<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
E/ECE/1434/Rev.1	Work Plan on ECE Reform

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## B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

### 1. General Assembly resolutions

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<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
65/170	International migration and development
65/187	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014
66/127	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

66/130	Women and political participation
66/132	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
66/288	The future we want

## 2. Economic and Social Council resolutions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts
2005/13	2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme
2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity
2011/5	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women
2012/2	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education
2012/11	Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda
2012/18	Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development
2012/24	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

## 3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

<i>Dec No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
C (47)	The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the Region of the Economic Commission of Europe
A (64)	The work of the Economic Commission for Europe

## 4. United Nations Statistical Commission decisions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
38/111	Statistical capacity-building
39/111	Collection and dissemination of statistics
39/112	Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata
40/110	Gender statistics (measuring violence against women)
41/104	Statistics of international trade in services
41/112	Development indicators
42/102	Programme review: Gender statistics (gender equality)
42/103	National accounts

42/104	Environmental-economic accounting
42/107	Short-term economic indicators
42/111	Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
43/101	Programme review: population and housing censuses
43/103	National accounts
43/115	Regional statistical development in Europe

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