

(Paris, 9-11 April 2014)

DRAFT REPORT

DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 62nd CES PLENARY SESSION

Decision 1: Matters arising from the 45th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (Agenda item 2)

1. The Conference took note of the main outcomes of the 2014 United Nations Statistical Commission session.

Decision 2: What is the value of official statistics and how do we communicate that value? (Agenda item 3)

2. The Conference encouraged countries to use the rich resource of papers and ideas produced by the seminar. The Conference agreed on the follow-up actions as listed below:

- (a) There is a lot of potential and interest to continue work related to the value of official statistics. There are things that the global statistical community can do together to make a paradigm shift from product to market orientation in communicating official statistics. The existing expert groups should be used for this purpose as much as possible.
- (b) The Conference asked the High-level Group for Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services to review possible actions to share best practices and develop common tools and solutions in this area;
- (c) The Conference asked the Bureau to review the work of the expert meetings on statistical dissemination and communication. It is important to go beyond traditional approaches of communicating official statistics and deal with strategic issues;
- (d) The CES Steering Group on Human Resources Management and Training could address the issues related to developing the skill mix that is necessary for effectively communicating the value of official statistics;
- (e) The Conference recognised the need for developing a common language and terminology related to the value of official statistics and its communication;
- (f) Measuring the economic value of official statistics through collection of examples and case studies would be useful.

3. The Conference asked the Secretariat and the CES Bureau to follow up on the issues raised during the seminar. The CES Bureau will discuss at its next meeting how to implement the proposed follow-up actions.

Decision 3: Migration statistics (Agenda item 4)

4. The Conference agreed that over the last few decades good progress has been made in developing migration statistics. At the same time, there is increasing need for better and more detailed information. The Conference agreed on the following actions:

- (a) Improve the harmonization of concepts and definitions across and within countries;
- (b) Increase cooperation between countries, including data exchange;
- (c) Develop a harmonised framework for assessing data quality;
- (d) Continue international efforts in developing methodologies for measuring emerging patterns of migration;
- (e) Improve measurement of the economic and social impact of migration and the measurement of socio-economic conditions of migrants;
- (f) Increase the use and integration of multiple data sources for measuring migration, including the use of administrative records and improvement of cooperation with register authorities;
- (g) Involve users of statistics in the work for developing migration statistics. Enhance collaboration with other international organisations and the Global Migration Group;
- (h) Create appropriate mechanisms for follow-up on the implementation of methodological guidance related to migration statistics.

5. The Conference asked the Secretariat and the CES Bureau to follow up on the issues raised during the seminar. The CES Bureau will discuss at its next meeting how to implement the proposed follow-up actions.

Decision 4: Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services (Agenda item 5)

6. The Conference approved the annual report of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services (HLG), including the outcome of HLG work in 2013, and progress so far on the 2014 projects.

7. The Conference suggested that future work could include the continuation of projects launched in 2014 if needed, a harmonised approach to microdata access, sharing of best practices, improved dissemination of products to users, and more publicity of HLG activities and outputs to the wider statistical community. The Conference strongly supported the work of the HLG and appreciated the concrete outputs prepared, as well as the idea to open meetings to interested non-members from time to time.

8. National and international statistical organizations were invited to support the work programme of the HLG, and commit resources for implementation actions.

Decision 5: Gender equality indicators (Agenda item 6a)

9. The Conference agreed with the outcome of work of the Task Force on Indicators of Gender Equality, including the suggestions for further work as outlined in document ECE/CES/2014/4/Add.1.

10. The Conference asked the Task Force to revise the report taking into account the comments from the electronic consultation, and the discussion at the CES 2014 plenary session.

11. The report will be submitted for final endorsement to the October 2014 meeting of the CES Bureau. The Bureau will also decide on the next steps of future work.

12. The report will be presented at the Global Forum of Gender Statistics in Mexico in November 2014.

Decision 6: Climate change related statistics (Agenda item 6b)

13. The Conference endorsed the *CES recommendations on climate change related statistics*, including the suggestions for further work, subject to the amendments as described in document ECE/CES/2014/5/Add.1 Section V.

14. The Conference expressed support for follow-up work as follows:

- (a) Establishing a small steering group to provide direction to countries in implementing the CES recommendations on climate change related statistics;

- (b) Establishing a regular expert meeting for producers and users of climate change related statistics with the participation of key organisations involved in the measurement of climate change and related phenomena. The purpose would be to share ideas and experience, collaborate, discuss concepts and measurement issues, and identify areas where practical methodological guidance would be needed;
 - (c) Defining a set of key climate change related statistics;
 - (d) Exploring the use of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework for climate change related statistics.
 - (e) Promoting further harmonization and coherence between the greenhouse gas inventory data and official statistics.
15. The Bureau will discuss the next steps of future work at its meeting in October 2014.

Decision 7: Global production (Agenda item 6c)

16. The Conference reviewed the *Guide to measuring global production*, and welcomed the good progress achieved by the Task Force on Global Production.
17. The Conference agreed with the proposal of the Task Force to revise the Guide taking into account the comments from the global consultation and the discussion at the CES 2014 plenary session. The Conference also agreed with the timetable for finalization of the Guide, as outlined in ECE/CES/2014/6/Add.1 Section IV.
18. The Conference emphasized the need for clarity in the guidance on the treatment of factoryless goods producers. In this respect the Conference recognized the importance of advancing the consultation on the industrial classification of factoryless goods producers. This could have a significant impact on the implementation of the 2008 SNA.
19. The Conference supported the creation of a forum in the form of an expert meeting for exchanging practical experience on data collection and compilation methods in respect to global production arrangements. The Conference asked UNECE and the Group of Experts on National Accounts, jointly with Eurostat and OECD, to provide such a forum.
20. An update of the Guide in 5 to 7 years from now should be envisaged to reflect new examples of good country practices.
21. The Conference emphasized the importance that the Global Working Group on Internationalization created by the UN Statistical Commission should closely collaborate with the CES Task Force to avoid duplication of work and to make the best use of work done so far.

Decision 8: Discussion on leading, composite and sentiment indicators and official statistics (Agenda item 7a)

22. The Conference endorsed the outcome of the in-depth review of leading, composite and sentiment indicators and official statistics. The results of the electronic consultation among CES members showed support for setting up a small international group or organising a seminar to discuss the role of official statistics and the challenges in producing and disseminating leading, composite and sentiment indicators.
23. The Conference asked the Secretariat and the CES Bureau to follow up on the issues raised in the electronic consultation and during the discussion at the CES plenary session.

Decision 9: Outcomes of the in-depth reviews carried out by the CES Bureau: Big data; Entrepreneurship statistics; and Measurement of social protection (Agenda item 7b)

24. The CES plenary session endorsed the outcomes of the in-depth reviews on Big data; entrepreneurship statistics; and measurement of social protection.
25. The Conference asked the Secretariat and the CES Bureau to follow up on the issues raised in the electronic consultation. The Secretariat will forward the comments by countries and organizations to the authors of in-depth review papers and the relevant Task Forces to be taken into account in further work.

Decision 10: Follow-up to the CES 2013 seminar on measuring sustainable development (Agenda item 7c)

26. The Conference expressed support for follow-up activities to the CES 2013 seminar on measuring sustainable development and implementation of SEEA as described in document ECE/CES/2014/12.
27. The Conference welcomed the pilot testing of the indicators from the *CES Recommendations on measuring sustainable development* by eight countries (Australia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine). The CES Bureau will review the proposal by the OECD Statistical Committee to extend the testing of the Recommendations to more countries. The Conference will be informed about the results of this exercise.
28. Countries/international organizations were invited to contribute to the stocktaking reports on measuring transboundary impacts in the context of sustainable development, measuring sustainable development at different scales, and linking subjective and objective

indicators. Volunteering countries and organizations were asked to contact the UNECE Secretariat (tiina.luige@unece.org).

29. A SPECA Project Working Group meeting on 25-27 June in Baku, Azerbaijan, will focus on SEEA implementation. The Conference supported the organisation of a joint UNECE/OECD seminar on the implementation of SEEA, possibly in spring 2015.

Decision 11: Follow-up to the CES 2013 seminar on microdata (Agenda item 7d)

30. The Conference expressed support for follow-up activities to the CES 2013 seminar on microdata as described in document ECE/CES/2014/13, and asked the Bureau to follow-up on the progress of work, taking into account the work of the OECD Expert Group on microdata access.

31. Countries and international organisations were invited to contribute case studies for the wiki-based version of the publication *Managing Statistical Confidentiality and Micro-data Access*.

32. The Conference asked the High-level Group on the modernisation of statistical production and services to consider the development of a common approach to access microdata, an issue that emerged as a follow-up to the work of the OECD Expert Group on microdata access.

Decision 12: Reports on the CES work (Agenda item 8a)

33. The Conference adopted the Biennial Evaluation Report of the Statistics subprogramme for 2012-13 (ECE/CES/2014/14) and the report on the implementation of the 2013 Statistical Programme (ECE/CES/2014/15).

Decision 13: UNECE programme planning documents (Agenda item 8b)

34. The Conference adopted the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2014 (ECE/CES/2014/16), including the list of planned meetings, and the Strategic Framework of the Statistics subprogramme for 2016-17 (ECE/CES/2014/17).

Decision 14: Guidelines for procedures and practices for ECE bodies (Agenda item 8c)

35. The Conference took note of the Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies.

Decision 15: Selection of topics for seminars at the CES 2015 plenary session (Agenda item 9)

36. Taking into account the results of the survey carried out among the CES members in March 2014 and the recommendation by the CES Bureau, the following topics were selected for the CES seminars in 2015:

A. Modernisation of statistical production and services and managing for efficiency

Seminar organizers: Ireland, Chair of the High-level Group for the modernisation of statistical production and services (HLG); and Italy.

The following countries volunteered to contribute to the seminar organisation: Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Republic of Moldova and United States.

Papers offered by: Australia, Canada, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovenia (possibly), Sweden, Turkey, United States (possibly) and Eurostat.

B. The response by official statistics to the Sustainable Development Goals

Seminar organizer: Switzerland

Session organizers: France and Sweden

Papers offered by: Italy, Mexico, Poland, Portugal (possibly), Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Eurostat, OECD (possibly) and UNSD.

37. Countries and international organizations wishing to provide papers for the seminars are requested to inform the UNECE Secretariat by the end of August 2014.

Other business (Agenda item 10)

38. The 2015 CES plenary session will take place on 15 June – 17 June a.m. 2015 in Geneva, back-to-back with the OECD Statistics Committee meeting. The Conference emphasized the importance of translating the main documents for the CES plenary session into the three official languages of ECE (English, French and Russian). The documents include the provisional agenda, report, one main paper for each sub-item on the agenda, and six main papers for each of the 1-day seminars held during the CES plenary session.