

Declaration

on the role of national statistical offices in measuring and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals

Adopted by the 63rd plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians

We, the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations Member States that participate in the work of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES),

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics¹ and the role of official statistics as an indispensable element in the information system of democratic societies,

Recalling the recent decisions of the Rio+20 - United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Secretary General and his working groups on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)² that emphasise the fundamental importance of official statistics for the post-2015 development agenda in its commitment to leaving no-one behind,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development *A World That Counts: Mobilising The Data Revolution for Sustainable Development*, and the basic principles for the data revolution for sustainable development,

Recalling the UNECE *High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals*³ recognizing the CES contribution to an effective framework to measure and monitor sustainable development, and the *CES Recommendations to measure sustainable development* prepared in close collaboration with OECD and Eurostat,

Bearing in mind that additional effort and investments will be required to maintain the necessary infrastructure for the production of statistics for sustainable development,

¹ General Assembly Resolution 68/261

² These include the Rio+20 outcome document *The future we want*, the UN Secretary Generals' Synthesis report *Road to Dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet*, the report of the UN Secretary General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda *A new global partnership: Eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development*, and the report by the UN General Assembly intergovernmental Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

³ E/ECE/1475

Call upon national governments to support national statistical offices in their key coordinating role in measuring and monitoring SDGs in countries, bearing in mind the critical role of high-quality official statistics in informed decision-making and taking into account the setup of the statistical system in a particular country,

We declare that the national statistical offices are committed to contribute their expertise to measure SDGs in a professional, independent and impartial way.

We are committed to:

- (a) *Contribute actively* to the measurement of SDGs through a focused set of indicators that are limited in number, based on a systematic framework and relying on high quality statistics;
- (b) *Use* the best methods for producing these statistics in the most efficient and timely way while ensuring data quality and protecting privacy of respondents, including the use of administrative sources, geospatial information, and other new data sources;
- (c) *Support* the post-2015 development agenda by developing broader measures of progress that will be needed for analysis of sustainable development in the long term;
- (d) *Engage effectively* with data producers within the official statistical system, in partnership with civil society, academia and the private sector, and *provide advice* on methods to ensure high quality of data that are produced;
- (e) *Provide leadership* in the dissemination and communication of data on SDGs, and *advise* in the interpretation of data;
- (f) *Increase* availability of statistical data disaggregated by population groups, in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
- (g) *Develop* statistical capacity in countries to ensure good quality reporting on SDGs.

To live up to these commitments, we *acknowledge* the importance of sharing experience and learning from each other through the established mechanisms of the Conference of European Statisticians.

We *recognize* the importance of good cooperation in monitoring SDGs at local, national, subregional, regional and global levels.

We *recognize* the importance of work of the international organizations with their technical expertise in measuring sustainable development and developing broader measures of progress.

We *emphasize* the importance of efficient coordination of SDG monitoring and reporting at the regional level between international organizations (such as UNECE, Eurostat, OECD, United Nations agencies and sub-regional integration organizations), and between international organizations and national statistical systems.