Strategic Framework of the Statistics subprogramme for 2018-2019

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The note provides the Strategic Framework for the biennium 2018-2019 of the ECE Statistics subprogramme. It defines the objective of the subprogramme, expected accomplishments, performance measures, a strategy and external factors as well as the legislative mandates for its work. The Strategic Framework of the Statistics subprogramme has four main areas of work linked to the expected accomplishments:

- Streamlined international statistical work;
- Updated and newly developed standards and recommendations;
- Improved national capacities;
- Improved availability and increased use of statistics from the ECE database.

The note is presented to the Conference of European Statisticians for approval. It was endorsed by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians in October 2015.
Objective of the Organization: To develop official statistics at the national and international levels for evidence-based policymaking and assessing progress towards sustainable development goals (SDGs), and to ensure the coordination of statistical activities in the ECE region under the Conference of European Statisticians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</th>
<th>Indicators of achievement</th>
<th>Performance measures</th>
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<td>(a) Streamlined international statistical work, in support of monitoring the achievement of SDGs</td>
<td>(a) (i) Increased number of international organizations involved in the regional monitoring of SDGs in coordination with the statistical work of the Conference of European Statisticians</td>
<td>Target 16  2018-2019  Estimate 12  2016-2017  Actual 5  2014-2015</td>
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<td>(ii) Number of new statistical areas reviewed in depth by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians</td>
<td>Target 5 Estimat 5 Actual 5</td>
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<td>(b) Updated and newly developed standards and recommendations to enhance the quality and international comparability of statistics and SDG monitoring</td>
<td>(b) (i) Number of new and/or revised international statistical standards and recommendations developed with ECE contribution</td>
<td>Target 6  2018-2019  Estimate 6  2016-2017  Actual 6</td>
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<td>(ii) Increased number of statistical areas (according to the International Statistical Activity classification) in which ECE provides methodological support for measuring progress towards SDGs</td>
<td>Target 12  2018-2019  Estimate 8  2016-2017  Actual 2</td>
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<td>(c) Improved national capacities to implement international standards and recommendations in official statistics, including on SDGs and gender-sensitive indicators</td>
<td>(c) (i) Increased number of recommendations from global assessments of national statistical systems, including on SDGs and gender-sensitive indicators, addressed by member States with developing statistical systems in their strategies for statistical development</td>
<td>Target 65  2018-2019  Estimate 46  2016-2017  Actual 28</td>
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<td>(ii) Increased percentage of national experts, including women, that are satisfied with the usefulness of the received ECE training for their work in official statistics</td>
<td>Target 86  2018-2019  Estimate 85  2016-2017  Actual 85</td>
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<td>(d) Improved availability and increased use of statistics from the ECE database, in particular related to SDGs, gender equality and key socio-economic indicators in support of evidence-based policymaking and research in ECE member States</td>
<td>(d) (i) Increased number of member States that use the ECE statistical database for evidence-based policy making and research</td>
<td>Target 46  2018-2019  Estimate 40  2016-2017  Actual 32</td>
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<td>(ii) Increased percentage of users that express satisfaction with the ECE statistical database as a tool for their work</td>
<td>Target 88  2018-2019  Estimate 80  2016-2017  Actual 86</td>
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I. Strategy

1. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Statistical Division.
2. The subprogramme will coordinate international statistical activities through the Conference of European Statisticians, joint expert meetings and working groups to share good practices and expertise in official statistics. The subprogramme will ensure effective collaboration and efficient use of resources through close partnerships among national and international statistical organizations.

3. The subprogramme will develop standards and recommendations in priority areas identified by the ECE member States, with a focus on supporting the monitoring of progress towards SDGs and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; measurement of climate change; globalization; population, poverty and inequality; and modernization of statistical production, including the use of geospatial information. Work will be undertaken in close cooperation with experts from ECE member States and international organizations through expert groups, each of them developing methodological and practical guidelines to address a specific gap or a challenge in official statistics.

4. The subprogramme will support statistical capacity building of ECE member States, particularly of those with less developed statistical systems. It will promote the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and other United Nations standards and best practices, and provide advice on legal and institutional frameworks of official statistics. This work will be demand-driven and address national priorities identified through global assessments of national statistical systems. It will focus on modernizing statistical production, population censuses, SDGs indicators, gender-disaggregated statistics, economic statistics, environmental accounting and indicators.

5. The subprogramme will collect and disseminate key socio-economic statistics of ECE member States, including on progress towards the achievement of SDGs and gender equality. The subprogramme will promote the use of these statistics and make them accessible to the public on the Internet. A specific framework will be applied to ensure the quality, coverage and timeliness of the information.

II. External factors

6. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) adequate resources are in place for monitoring the SDGs and supporting the national statistical offices; (b) budget constraints would not hamper the participation of national statistical offices in international work; (c) national and international statistical organizations’ willingness to cooperate remains high; (d) donors’ support is available for the modernization of statistical production; (e) national statistical offices continue to carry out development work on key statistical domains; and (f) data for the ECE statistical database are made available by statistical organizations free of charge and in a suitable format.
III. Legislative mandates

A. General Assembly resolutions

66/288 The future we want
67/144 Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
68/261 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
69/210 Entrepreneurship for development
69/229 International migration and development
69/282 World Statistics Day
70/147 Protection of migrants
70/208 Harmony with Nature
70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

B. Economic and Social Council resolutions

2012/2 The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education
2013/1 Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
2013/16 Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2014/7 Further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
2015/10 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme

C. Economic and Social Council decisions

2010/235 Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-first session and venue and dates of and provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-second session (Statistical Commission decision 41/112 Development indicators)
2012/230 Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-third session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fourth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 43/101 Programme review: population and housing censuses, 43/115 Regional statistical development in Europe)
2013/235 Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fourth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fifth session of the Commission
(Statistical Commission decision 44/101 Programme review: developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems, 44/105 Environment statistics)


D. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

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

A (65) Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE

A (66) Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region