



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Conference of European Statisticians

#### Sixty-fourth plenary session

Paris, 27-29 April 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Opening addresses and adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda

The plenary session will be held at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Conference Centre, 2, rue André-Pascal, 75016 Paris, France, starting at 9:30 on Wednesday, 27 April 2016.

## I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening addresses and adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.
3. Strategic partnerships.
4. Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics.
5. How to implement the monitoring system for the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. Geospatial information services based on official statistics.
7. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference:
  - (a) Measuring human capital;
  - (b) Circular migration;
  - (c) Ageing-related statistics;
  - (d) Value of official statistics, interim report.
8. Technical cooperation: Generic Statistical Law developed as part of a United Nations Development Account (UNDA) 9<sup>th</sup> tranche project.
9. Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region: Outcomes of the in-depth reviews carried out by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau.



10. Programme of work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Statistics subprogramme:
  - (a) Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists;
  - (b) Programme planning documents for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistics subprogramme.
11. Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2017 CES plenary session.
12. Other business.
13. Closing of the meeting.

## **II. Annotations**

The sixty-fourth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians will convene at the request of the sixty-third CES plenary session (ECE/CES/89) and in accordance with the *Rules Governing the Work of the Conference and its Bureau* (CES/2005/2).

### **1. Opening addresses and adoption of the agenda**

The proposed provisional agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the CES Bureau at its 9-10 February 2016 meeting. The provisional agenda will be presented for the approval of the Conference.

### **2. Matters arising from the 47th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission – for information**

The agenda item will focus on the implications of the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) on the work of CES.

### **3. Strategic partnerships – for discussion and recommendations**

This part of the CES plenary session will be organized in a format of a seminar, chaired by Canada. The discussion will consider partnerships of national statistical offices with other organisations in the information industry. The challenges of increasing data needs, e.g. through the upcoming reporting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) combined with technological advances and data revolution make it ever more important for statistical offices to find new partnerships and new ways of providing data and services. The discussion will focus on mutually beneficial relationships with members of the information industry that are formed to enable and further develop innovation in official statistics.

#### **(a) Topic 1: Building beneficial partnerships**

The main basis for the session will be a paper by the United Kingdom, prepared in collaboration with Austria, Mexico, Turkey and Eurostat. The session will share examples of beneficial partnerships between a national statistical office and other actors in the information industry.

#### **(b) Topic 2: Panel discussion on the way forward**

The session will be organized as an interactive panel discussion. The focus will be on the discussion of strategic choices and the way forward for statisticians. The session is expected to conclude with recommendations to national statistical offices and their potential partners on how to engage in effective partnerships.

#### **4. Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics**

The High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) was set up to guide strategic developments in the ways official statistics are produced. The Conference has expressed strong support for the work, endorsed the vision and the strategy for modernizing official statistics, and decided that the HLG-MOS should present annual reports to the CES plenary session.

The HLG will submit its annual report on implementing its strategy to the Conference for approval. The Conference will be invited to discuss the outcomes of recent projects in the area of statistical modernisation and priorities for the work in 2016.

#### **5. How to implement the monitoring system for the Sustainable Development Goals**

The aim of the discussion will be to obtain input from the CES members to the road map on developing official statistics for monitoring SDGs under CES. The discussion will be organized by the secretariat in collaboration with the CES Steering Group on monitoring SDGs. The Task Force on adjusting the CES framework to measure sustainable development to SDGs will present the preliminary results of its work.

#### **6. Geospatial information services based on official statistics**

This part of the CES plenary session will be organized in a format of a seminar, chaired by Austria. Numerous policy initiatives, e.g. on climate change and disaster preparedness, stress the benefits of linking environmental and socioeconomic data to location attributes. In addition to improving the quality of the unit level spatial referencing, statistical offices would need to significantly improve access to spatial statistical information and develop ways of sharing data to more effectively serve policy needs. Development may have been held back by data confidentiality and privacy concerns, but also due to lack of common tools and approaches.

The seminar will discuss the challenges arising from international and global drivers such as the Global Geospatial Information Management (UN–GGIM), INSPIRE (in Europe) and the SDGs. The seminar will consider the way forward to develop an international spatial reference framework, define a conceptual framework for the integration of geospatial and statistical data, and achieve cooperation between national statistical offices and mapping agencies. The discussion will also consider current experiences at national and international levels, and share information on latest methodological developments. The session is expected to conclude with some recommendations for follow-up work under CES.

#### **7. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference**

Three documents will be submitted to the 2016 CES plenary session for endorsement and one interim report for discussion and recommendations.

##### **(a) Measuring human capital**

The *Recommendations on Measuring Human Capital* were prepared by a Task Force, set up by the CES in June 2013. The objective was to pursue the conceptual development of human capital measurement, with priority given to developing experimental human capital satellite accounts. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work in January 2014, and provided advice on drafting the final recommendations.

The CES Bureau reviewed the Recommendations at its February 2016 meeting, and requested the secretariat to conduct an electronic consultation with all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to the positive outcome of the consultation, the Recommendations will be submitted to the 2016 CES plenary session for endorsement.

**(b) Circular migration**

The *Guidelines on Circular Migration* were developed by a Task Force, set up by the CES Bureau in February 2013. The purpose of the Task Force was to assess current user needs, methodology and available data sources to measure circular migration; examine the impact of using different definitions for circular migration; and propose a common international statistical definition of circular migration.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft Guidelines at its February 2016 meeting, and requested the secretariat to conduct an electronic consultation with all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to the positive outcome of the consultation, the Guidelines will be submitted to the 2016 CES plenary session for endorsement.

**(c) Ageing-related statistics**

The *Recommendations on ageing-related statistics* were developed by a Task Force, set up by the CES Bureau in February 2013. The objective of the Task Force was to develop recommendations for improving the availability, accessibility and comparability of statistical data in support of ageing-related policymaking. The Task Force involved statisticians, policymakers and academia providing a good example of efficient cooperation between different stakeholders.

In October 2015, the CES Bureau decided that the *Recommendations on ageing-related statistics* can be sent for electronic consultation to all CES members. The secretariat circulated the Recommendations for consultation in early 2016. Subject to the positive outcome of the consultation, the document will be submitted to the Conference for endorsement.

**(d) Value of official statistics, interim report**

As a follow-up to the CES 2014 seminar “What is the value of official statistics and how do we communicate that value?”, the CES Bureau established a Task Force on value of official statistics in February 2015. The objective of the Task Force is to define the value of official statistics and develop ways for its measurement that will allow for better understanding and communication of this value to society.

The CES Bureau discussed the interim report at its February 2016 meeting, and asked the secretariat to submit the interim report to the CES plenary session for further discussion and recommendations. The Task Force will continue its work in 2016-2017 based on the feedback received.

**8. Technical cooperation: Generic Statistical Law developed as part of a United Nations Development Account (UNDA) 9th tranche project – for discussion and endorsement**

UNECE developed, jointly with Eurostat and EFTA, a *Generic Law on Official Statistics* as part of a broader UNECE statistical capacity building project financed through the United Nations Development Account<sup>1</sup>. The work is being done in support of further development

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<sup>1</sup> The project focuses on 11 countries from Easter Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

of the legal and institutional frameworks for official statistics, based on recommendations and findings of Global Assessments of national statistical systems conducted in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

The Generic Law on Official Statistics will be submitted to the 2016 CES plenary session for discussion and endorsement.

## **9. Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

This agenda item concerns the decisions that the Conference is expected to take regarding the coordination of international statistical work in the UNECE region.

The Conference will consider short reports on the outcomes of the in-depth reviews carried out by the CES Bureau since the previous CES plenary session in June 2015. These reviews are important tools of coordination to identify gaps or duplication of work and address emerging issues. The reviews focus on strategic issues and highlight concerns of statistical offices of both a conceptual and a coordinating nature.

The in-depth reviews of ‘Strategic partnerships’ and ‘Geo-spatial information services based on official statistics’ served as input to the CES seminars, and will be considered under agenda items 3 and 6.

The Conference will be invited to endorse the outcome of the in-depth review of ‘Diversification of population census methodology and sources’ conducted by the CES Bureau in October 2015.

## **10. Programme of work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Statistics subprogramme**

### **(a) Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists**

The Conference will be invited to consider the reports related to the UNECE statistical work programme in 2015-2016 as follows:

(i) Report on the implementation of the 2015 UNECE Statistical Programme (ECE/CES/2016/15), endorsed by the CES Bureau in February 2016;

(ii) Report on *Measuring population and housing in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, review of practices in the 2010 round of censuses*, developed as a result of an externally funded capacity building project.

(iii) Reports of the CES Bureau Meetings, progress reports of Teams of Specialists (Steering Groups and Task Forces) and reports of expert meetings.

### **(b) Programme planning documents for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistics subprogramme**

The Conference will be invited to review and adopt the official planning documents of the Statistics subprogramme prepared in the context of the United Nations secretariat’s biennial planning and reporting cycle:

(i) UNECE Statistical Programme for 2016 (ECE/CES/2016/12), as agreed by the CES Bureau in October 2015. The document is in line with the Programme of Work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2016-2017, adopted by the Conference in June 2015 (ECE/CES/2015/16) and approved by the UNECE Executive Committee in January 2016;

(ii) Strategic Framework of the UNECE Statistics subprogramme for 2018-2019 (ECE/CES/2016/13), as agreed by the CES Bureau in October 2015 and approved by the UNECE Executive Committee in November 2015.

## **11. Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2017 Conference of European Statisticians plenary session**

The Conference will select topics for the CES seminars in 2017 based on a proposal by the CES Bureau. The proposal will reflect the results of an electronic survey to be carried out by the Secretariat in spring 2016 among the CES member countries and international organizations.

## **12. Other business**

Any additional issues that the Conference needs to be informed of can be taken up under this agenda item.

## **13. Closing of the meeting**

A draft report of the CES plenary session, including the main decisions, will be adopted at the end of the meeting (in English only). A detailed report will be prepared after the Conference and will be sent for comments to all participants. The finalised report will be translated into French and Russian.

## **III. Organization of work**

A detailed timetable will be made available on the official website of the Conference ([www.unece.org/stats/documents/2016.04.ces.html](http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2016.04.ces.html)) before the plenary session.

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Item/Programme</i>
<b>Wednesday, 27 April</b>	
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**Thursday, 28 April**

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**Friday, 29 April**

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10:50-11:35 8

11:35-11:40 9

11:40-11:55 10

11:55-12:05 11

12:05-12:30 12, 13

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