



Economic Commission for Europe**Conference of European Statisticians****67th plenary session**

Paris, 26-28 June 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening and adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for sixty-seventh plenary session**

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, 26 June 2019.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
2. New data sources – accessibility and use:
 - (a) Session 1: Accessing new data sources;
 - (b) Session 2: Skills needed to use new data sources.
3. Rules governing the work of the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau.
4. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference:
 - (a) Measuring hazardous events and disasters;
 - (b) Measuring older populations in institutions;
 - (c) Leading, composite and sentiment indicators;
 - (d) Satellite account for education and training;
 - (e) Strategic communications framework;
 - (f) Strategic partnerships.
5. Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals.
6. Emerging role of national statistical offices as offices for statistics and data:
 - (a) Session 1: Emerging data system opportunities and issues;
 - (b) Session 2: Approaches to data system stewardship.



7. Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics:
 - (a) Annual report;
 - (b) Revisions of General Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) and Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO).
8. Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2020 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians.
9. Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region:
 - (a) Outcomes of the recent in-depth reviews carried out by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians;
 - (b) Use of satellite image and earth observation data in official statistics.
10. Matters arising from the 68th session of Economic Commission for Europe and the 50th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.
11. Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:
 - (a) Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists;
 - (b) Programme planning documents for the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
12. Election of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians.
13. Other business.
14. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations

The sixty-seventh plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) will convene in accordance with the *Rules Governing the Work of the Conference and its Bureau* (CES/2007/8).

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the CES Bureau at its February 2019 meeting. The provisional agenda is presented for the approval of the Conference.

2. New data sources – accessibility and use

This part of the CES plenary session will be held in a seminar format, organized by Switzerland and the United States. Dr Nancy Potok, Chief Statistician of the United States, will open the seminar.

The seminar will discuss the opportunities and challenges that statistical offices have encountered in using new data sources, and the skills staff need today and tomorrow to use these data successfully. The seminar will include a keynote speech.

Statistical offices increasingly turn to alternative data sources to address new data demands and to increase the timeliness, efficiency and quality of their regular data products. These sources can be identifiable secondary sources like administrative data, or non-identifiable secondary sources like big data (mobile phone data, satellite imagery and geo-spatial data, scanner data and social media data). There are often issues of data access – data may be prohibitively expensive or there may be legal obstacles – and concerns about the ongoing availability of transparent and consistent data. There are also issues related to data use –

what skills are needed to work with new data sources and how are statistical offices ensuring that current and future staff have these skills.

(a) Session 1: Accessing new data sources

Switzerland will organize the session. It will consider success stories and challenges faced by national statistical organizations in their efforts to obtain data from alternative sources. The discussion will focus on experiences and lessons learned, legal hurdles related to accessing alternative data and forging partnerships to access alternative data.

(b) Session 2: Skills needed to use new data sources

United States will organize the session. It will focus on the challenges faced by national statistical organizations as they attempt to build the staff skills needed to be proficient in using alternative data sources. The session will discuss skills or disciplines needed among new hires, training needed for existing staff, tools used to work with new data sources and getting senior officials to support the use of new data sources and computational techniques.

3. Rules governing the work of the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau

At the February 2019 meeting, the CES Bureau decided to adjust the *Rules governing the work of the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau* (ECE/CES/2007/8) and related *Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within CES* and *Procedure for adopting products and recommendations by CES* in order to better align them with the UNECE terms of reference and rules of procedure updated in 2009, and recent developments in the work of the Conference. As the current Rules have worked well, the amendments to the text are kept minimal, allowing to improve clarity and making a few editorial corrections. The plenary session will be invited to approve the updated documents.

The Conference will also be informed about the strategic renovation of the Palais des Nations in Geneva during the coming 6 years. All UNECE subsidiary bodies were advised to look for possibilities to hold their annual plenary sessions outside the UN premises in Geneva. Members of the Conference of European Statisticians will be asked to express interest in hosting future plenary sessions of the Conference.

4. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference

Five documents are planned to be submitted to the 2019 CES plenary session for endorsement. One document will be presented for information.

(a) Measuring hazardous events and disasters

The CES Bureau created a Task Force on measuring extreme events and disasters in February 2015 to clarify the role of official statistics in providing data related to extreme events and disasters, and identify practical steps how national statistical offices in coordination with national agencies responsible for disaster management can support disaster management and risk reduction.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Recommendations on the Role of official statistics in measuring hazardous events and disasters* at its February 2019 meeting, and asked the Secretariat to circulate it to all CES members for an electronic consultation. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the Recommendations.

(b) Measuring older populations in institutions

In February 2017, the CES Bureau established a Task Force on measuring old-age population in institutions. The aim was to develop standard definitions and classifications of “institution” and “institutional populations” as they pertain to older people and provide

guidelines for statistical offices on how to include such populations in the production of statistics on ageing-related topics.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Recommendations on measuring older populations in institutions* at its February 2019 meeting and asked the Secretariat to circulate it to all CES members for an electronic consultation. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the Recommendations.

(c) Leading, composite and sentiment indicators

In February 2016, the Bureau set up a Task Force to develop guidelines for national statistical offices on producing leading, composite and sentiment indicators. The interim Guidelines prepared by the Task Force were consulted electronically with all CES members in spring 2018. In June 2018, the Conference expressed support for the interim Guidelines, and asked the Task Force to take into account the comments received during the electronic consultation.

The CES Bureau reviewed the updated draft of *Guidelines on producing leading, composite and sentiment indicators* at its October 2018 meeting, and decided to send it for an electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Guidelines will be submitted to the 2019 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(d) Satellite account for education and training

The CES Bureau set up a Task Force on satellite accounts for education and training in February 2017 to coordinate the pilot testing of these satellite accounts in countries with different economic circumstances and data availability. Based on the outcome of the pilot, the Task Force has prepared a compilation guide for the satellite account for education and training.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Satellite account for education and training: compilation guide* at its February 2019 meeting, and asked the Secretariat to circulate it to all CES members for an electronic consultation. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the Compilation guide.

(e) Strategic communications framework

The CES 2018 seminar on “Getting the message across: strategic reflections on modernizing statistical communication” proposed preparing a communication maturity model and a roadmap for statistical organizations. In 2018, the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics developed a *Strategic communications framework* as one of the 2018 priority projects. The objective of the framework is to guide statistical offices in taking a strategic approach to protect, enhance and promote the organization’s reputation and brand. The framework includes a communications maturity model.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Strategic communications framework* at its February 2019 meeting and asked the Secretariat to circulate it to all CES members for an electronic consultation. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the Framework.

(f) Strategic partnerships

At its October 2018 meeting, the Bureau approved a report *Modern partnership framework for official statistics* prepared by an informal group co-led by Canada and the United Kingdom. The report includes principles, a framework and a maturity model for strategic partnerships. The Bureau considered the report a good tool for statistical offices to move forward in this area. The Conference will be informed about the principles and framework for strategic partnerships and be encouraged to use it.

5. Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals

The Conference will be informed about countries' progress in implementing the *CES Road Map on statistics for SDGs* and the work under the CES Steering Group on statistics for SDGs. The Conference will be also informed about the outcome of the March 2019 UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, including a focus event on statistics and data.

The UNECE Commission session in April 2019 is expected to take a decision requesting the Secretariat to prepare an annual report on the regional progress towards SDGs based on existing statistics and data, starting from 2020. The Conference will be asked to comment on the plans and procedure for preparing an annual report on progress towards SDGs in the UNECE region, including a statistical annex, starting from 2020.

The Conference will also be informed about the outcome of the rotation of the members from the UNECE region in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the High-level group on partnership, cooperation and capacity building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB) from the UNECE region.

6. Emerging role of national statistical offices as offices for statistics and data

This part of the CES plenary session will be held in a seminar format organized by Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Mr. Anil Arora, the Chief Statistician of Canada, will open the seminar.

The seminar will focus on the emerging role of national statistical offices (NSOs) as potential data stewards for national governments. NSOs in many countries are encountering a range of opportunities and challenges when they look at ways how to operate effectively as an NSO within their country's data system or seek to play a role in shaping their country's data system. The seminar will discuss how NSOs can increase their influence and enhance trust in government-wide data systems, share expertise and show novel ways to foster data-driven communities and organizations. The seminar builds on themes and discussions at the previous CES plenary session about communication, value creation and the broadening of official statistics.

(a) Session 1: Emerging data system opportunities and issues

Canada and the United Kingdom will organize the session. It will be opened with a keynote speech.

The session will explore the various opportunities and issues that are emerging and identify common themes. This may translate into new areas for collaboration and/or help shape current international work. The discussion will focus on issues such as (i) governance, privacy and data ethics; (ii) value creation and (iii) the role of the private sector as data and technology providers.

(b) Session 2: Approaches to data system stewardship

New Zealand will organize the session. It will be an opportunity to compare how countries are anticipating and responding to the various opportunities and issues discussed in session 1. Session 2 will consider the role of NSOs starting from the traditional role as a steward of official statistics through to new roles and models.

The session will also discuss how NSOs can leverage partnership opportunities, maintain trust and social licence to steward public sector data, and ensure privacy protection and ethical use of data.

7. 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 asked HLG-MOS to present annual reports to the CES plenary session.

(a) Annual report

The HLG-MOS will submit its annual report to the Conference for approval. Furthermore, the Conference will be invited to discuss the outcomes of recent projects in the area of statistical modernisation.

(b) Revisions of General Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) and Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO)

HLG-MOS will present the latest revisions of the General Statistical Business Process Model and Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations. Previous versions of the two models were endorsed by the plenary session in June 2017. The plenary session will be invited to endorse the revised models.

8. Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2020 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians

The Conference will select topics for the CES seminars in 2020 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 2019 among the CES member countries and international organizations.

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 be informed about the outcomes of in-depth reviews of selected statistical areas carried out by the CES Bureau. These reviews are important tools of coordination to address emerging issues and identify gaps or duplication of work. The reviews focus on strategic issues and highlight concerns of statistical offices of both a conceptual and a coordinating nature.

(a) Outcomes of the in-depth reviews carried out by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

The Conference will be invited to review and endorse the outcomes of the in-depth reviews carried out by the CES Bureau since the previous CES plenary session: “Statistics and data on cities” in October 2018 and “Various types of satellite accounts” and “Measurement of gender identity” in February 2019.

(b) Use of satellite image and earth observation data in official statistics

The CES Bureau reviewed the “Use of satellite image and earth observation data in official statistics” in-depth in October 2018. As the discussion provided many useful comments, the Bureau decided that the topic should be discussed at the 2019 plenary session to obtain input from all CES members on the requirements of the official statistics community regarding satellite and earth observation data.

10. Matters arising from the 68th session of Economic Commission for Europe and the 50th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

The agenda item will focus on the implications of the decisions of the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Statistical Commission on the work of CES.

11. Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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

The Conference will be invited to approve the reports related to the UNECE statistical work programme as follows:

- (i) Report on the implementation of the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2018;
- (ii) 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 Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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 2019, approved by the CES Bureau in October 2018. The document is in line with the Programme of Work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2018-2019 (ECE/CES/2017/13), adopted by the Conference in June 2017;
- (ii) A draft programme of work document for 2020, including publications programme, reviewed by the CES Bureau in February 2019. The draft work programme will be prepared in a new format in line with the change of the UN budget planning from biannual to annual budgets on a trial basis, beginning in 2020.

12. Election of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

The current term of all members of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians expires at the closing of the 2019 plenary session, on 28 June. At the 2019 plenary session, therefore, elections for Chair and Vice-Chairs will be held for the two-year period from June 2019 to June 2021. All Bureau members are eligible to serve for another two years term.

13. Other business

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

14. Adoption of the report and 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 finalized 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/2019.06.ces.html) before the plenary session.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Item/Programme</i>
Wednesday, 26 June	
09:30-09:40	1
09:40-15:30	2
15:50-16:20	3
16:20-17:00	4 (a), 4 (b)
17:00-17:30	5
Thursday, 27 June	
09:30-15:30	6
15:50-16:40	4 (c), 4 (d), 4 (e)
16:40-17:10	7
17:10-17:30	8
Friday, 28 June	
09:30-09:40	4 (f)
09:40-09:50	9 (a)
09:50-10:05	10
10:05-10:25	11
10:25-10:35	12
10:55-11:45	9 (b)
11:45-12:00	13
12:00-12:30	14
