**Economic and Social Council**

**Economic Commission for Europe**

Conference of European Statisticians

**Sixty-eighth plenary session**
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Item 10 (a) of the provisional agenda
**Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the**
**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**
**Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists**

## Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2020

**Addendum**

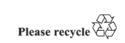**Report of the Conference of European Statisticians Bureau meeting, 25-26 February 2020**

**Note by the secretariat**

*Summary*

The present report is submitted in compliance with the Rules Governing the Work of the Conference and its Bureau (ECE/CES/2019/2), adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians at its sixty seventh plenary session. Referring to the Rules, the Bureau acts as a steering body of the Conference. The report includes decisions taken by the Bureau at its February 2020 meeting on the work carried out under the auspices of the Conference.

The report is submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians for information.

# Contents

# I.  Introduction

1.      The meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) was held in Aguascalientes, Mexico on 25-26 February 2020, kindly hosted by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico. The following members of the Bureau attended: Mr. A. Arora (Canada), Mr. T. Koskimäki (representing Ms. M. Bruun, Finland), Mr. P. Dalton (Ireland), Mr. J. Santaella (Mexico) and Mr. D. Rozkrut (Poland). The following permanent observers also attended: Ms. M. Kotzeva (Eurostat), Mr. C. Sanchez-Munoz (representing Mr. L.-M. Ducharme, IMF), Mr. P. Schreyer (OECD) and Ms. L. Bratanova (UNECE). Mr. J. Santaella (Mexico) chaired the meeting.

2.      The following persons assisted members of the Bureau: Mr. E. Gracida and Ms. P. Garcia (Mexico), and Ms. M.-J. Santos (Eurostat). Ms. T. Luige (UNECE) served as Secretary of the meeting supported by Ms. M. Cwiek (UNECE). A number of UNECE staff and Mr. Eduard Bonet Porqueras (UNICEF) participated in selected agenda items via webex.

3.      New Zealand and UNSD sent written comments on the agenda items. The comments were presented to the Bureau and taken into account in the discussion.

# II.  In-depth reviews of selected statistical areas

## A.  Measuring well-being in the era of digital society

*Documentation*: ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/2 by Canada

4.      The Bureau had an initial discussion on measuring well-being in the era of digital society in October 2019. The Bureau continued the discussion based on the updated paper by Canada. The following points were raised in the discussion:

- The starting point for measurement should be the policy needs. Engaging with academia can help to identify the areas of focus for official statistics;

- A new framework to measure well-being is not required as there is good convergence around the broad dimensions to consider;

- Digitalisation has an impact on all spheres of life and should be integrated in all statistics. Expert groups working in different areas of statistics could be asked to identify the impact of digitalisation in their subject matter areas;

- The measurement should have a future oriented view, not be limited to existing time-series and surveys, and not be based on the viewpoint of using specific technologies. The aim is to give a coherent picture;

- Looking at the impact of digitalisation on children is important as it helps to foresee the impact on future adults;

- For international comparability, it can be helpful to agree on definitions of different variables and even questions in surveys. This may also help in integrating information gathered through different surveys. Longitudinal studies and time-use surveys are very important instruments for collecting information about the impact of digitalisation;

- It is challenging to communicate the data on digital economy and the linkages between digitalisation and well-being in an easily understandable way.

**Conclusion**

5.      Canada will formulate concrete follow-up actions for the next meeting of the CES Bureau.

## B.    Role of statistical community in climate action

*Documentation*: ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/3 by the CES Steering Group on climate change-related statistics

6.    The Bureau discussed in-depth the role of the statistical community in climate action based on a paper by the Steering Group on climate change-related statistics. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a)    The paper provides a very useful overview of ongoing work and emerging issues. The topic is strategically important for official statistics but also sensitive – there is high risk and high reward. NSOs in many countries are actively involved but there is potential for doing more;

(b)    Official statistics should increase its visibility in supporting climate action. It is still often the case that official statistics is not even mentioned in the work on climate change-related issues (e.g. in COP discussions);

(c)    It is important to identify where official statistics can add the greatest value, focus on a few priority areas, and align better with the work in other statistical areas. High-level commitment and prioritising are linked with the amount of resources that NSOs can devote to the work in this area.  Partnerships and collaboration with academia, research community, and environment protection organizations are needed. This can be also a way of increasing visibility;

(d)    Needs for climate change-related data often cut across domains and should be incorporated into the current economic and social statistics. Overall, the involvement in greenhouse gas inventories is working well.  More use could be made of the System of Environmental-economic Accounting (SEEA);

(e)    Most value added is generated when data from different domains can be linked, including from outside official statistics. NSOs are in a good position to promote the use of common (statistical) classifications for this purpose;

(f)    One of the most urgent areas requiring further development is measuring climate change adaptation. A conceptual framework for this area would be useful but it can not be developed quickly;

(g)    The financial aspect of climate change is gaining importance, e.g. for tracking the climate-change related expenditures, projects and loans. However, there are no internationally agreed definitions of 'green' finance. IMF is planning to incorporate climate-related indicators into the next revision of their economic statistics manuals. The financial dimension could be better highlighted in the in-depth review paper;

(h)    The paper needs to be updated to reflect recent developments. After updating, it should be widely circulated at expert and top managerial levels, including at the World Data Forum and COP26.

### Conclusion

7.    The authors will circulate the document among all the involved organizations and countries to ask for review and updates. IMF will provide information about its activities related to climate change.

8.    The updated paper will be submitted to the CES plenary session along other in-depth review papers, and to the next UNECE Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change related statistics. The Secretariat will consider possibilities for promoting it at the World Data Forum and COP26. The Steering Group will prepare a short paper with suggested further actions for the October 2020 meeting.

## C.    Selection of topics for in-depth reviews in 2020-2021 and proposals for the 2021 Conference of European Statisticians seminars

*Documentation*: ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/4 and 5 by UNECE

**1. In-depth reviews in 2020-2021**

9. The Bureau discussed the topics for in-depth reviews to be carried out in October 2020 and February 2021 based on a proposal by the Secretariat. The Bureau noted that the choice of topics for seminars and in-depth reviews should be based on certain criteria, such as a competitive advantage of exploring a specific topic in the region, identifying an emerging issue, and allowing to build on work done in the past.

**2. Conclusion**

10. The following topics were selected to be discussed in depth by the Bureau:

(a) Measuring circular economy (to be reviewed in October 2020; Finland to lead; Mexico and Poland will contribute along with countries and organizations that have volunteered earlier: Belarus, Canada, the Netherlands, EEA, Eurostat, OECD and UNEP);

(b) New forms of employment combined with quality of employment, with the focus on the new forms (to be reviewed in February 2021; Canada to lead); the review should take into account the relevant work of OECD and ILO;

(c) Use cases for alternative population bases (timing of the review to be agreed later as the relevant experts are busy with the 2020 census). Ireland, Mexico and Poland supported the topic emphasizing the growing demand for other population counts than based on the usual residence criteria.

**3. Possible topics for the 2021 CES seminars**

11. The Bureau reviewed the list of possible seminar topics for the CES plenary session in 2021. The list will be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the 2020 CES plenary session.

12. The Bureau made the following comments on the list and the process:

(a) Several topics were suggested to be better suited for an in-depth review (such as 'Strengthening the links between official statistics and geospatial data' and 'Measuring the non-observed/informal economy');

(b) The topic 'Challenges in measuring intergenerational relationships' should be better focused and some of the text could be politically sensitive. The topic may be rather considered for an in-depth review;

(c) There should be clear criteria for the seminar topics keeping them strategic and considering what kind of outcome is expected. The seminars and the in-depth reviews should be complementary;

(d) It will be good to discuss the organization of the CES plenary session and seminars, taking into account the experience acquired since 2003 when a new structure of the CES plenary sessions was introduced;

(e) If a joint plenary session with UN-GGIM: Europe will be held in future, the topic should be proposed in consultation with the geospatial community.

**Conclusion**

13. The Secretariat will update the list of the seminar topics taking into account the comments above.

14. In October 2020, the Bureau will discuss the organization of the CES plenary sessions and seminars based on a proposal prepared by the Secretariat.

## III. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical work and Conference of European Statisticians teams of specialists

### A. Population and housing censuses

*Documentation*: ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/6 and 6/Add.1 by the CES Steering Group

15.     The Bureau reviewed the progress report and updated terms of reference of the Steering Group on population and housing censuses. The outgoing Chair of the Steering Group from Canada was commended for the good work. The following points were raised in the discussion:

- The need for the Steering Group is even greater now as the census is at a crossroads: there will be different types of censuses in the future. Users are asking for census data with more geographical detail and with a higher frequency, and for different population bases (e.g. de facto and de jure population, taking into account daily and weekly mobility, etc.). There can be difficulties in reconciling administrative data with data from a traditional census;

- Moving away from a traditional census may be politically sensitive and not well accepted.  This needs to be discussed at the level of Chief Statisticians.

**Conclusion**

16.      The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Steering Group on population and housing censuses until October 2025. The Steering Group was asked to develop a road map for launching work on the CES Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses of the 2030 Round and propose a preliminary work plan to the Bureau in October 2020.

### B. Use of new data sources for measuring migration and cross-border mobility

*Documentation*: ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/7 by UNECE and the CES Steering Group on migration statistics

17.     The Bureau reviewed the Terms of Reference for a Task Force on using new data sources for measuring migration and cross-border mobility. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a)     There was strong support for undertaking work in this crucial area;

(b)     Sustainable access to new data sources is key for improvement in migration statistics. It was recommended to move in small iterative steps but quickly. NSOs should work together on getting access and increasing its political and social acceptability, and learn from the experience of private companies in this respect;

(c)     Administrative records remain a very important source for migration statistics. A workshop bringing together experts on new data sources and on traditional data sources could be useful;

(d)     Assessing the quality of new data sources is crucial. OECD is developing a quality framework for the new data sources that can be helpful;

(e)     The Task Force may need to focus on some types of cross-border movements as the whole scope of movements under migration is very wide;

(f)     Demand for data related to migration and population movement is one of the drivers of changes in censuses and should be considered jointly with the work on censuses. Increasingly important are also migration data at subnational level and linkage between migration and environment;

(g)    Privacy protection will be a challenge. Exchanging mobile data or social media data is even more controversial than exchanging microdata. Communication of this activity to the public will be key;

(h)    There may be a strong bias in the social media data that may not be representative of all migrants. The Task Force should leverage the experience of analysis of social media data on mobility, and relevant examples collected through the International Forum on Migration Statistics;

(i)    There are massive asymmetries in migration data between countries. The experience with reconciliating trade statistics could help to address this issue;

(j)    New Zealand shared its experience of using data science techniques to classify border-crossing data and explore the utilisation of mobile device location data for measuring internal migration.

**Conclusion**

18.    The Bureau approved the Terms of Reference for a Task Force on using new data sources for measuring migration and cross-border mobility. The Task Force should consider sustainable access to data sources, quality of new data sources, and linkages between using new data sources and traditional ways of compiling migration statistics. Ireland, New Zealand, OECD, and UNSD expressed interest in joining the Task Force.

## C.    Statistics on children and youth

*Documentation*: ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/8 by UNICEF and UNECE

19.    The Bureau discussed the concept note and the terms of reference for a Task Force on statistics for children and youth. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a)    This topic touches on several statistical themes. It is a good sign that statistical community is asked to help to address this challenge and answer policy relevant questions. The good collaboration between UNECE, UNICEF and Eurostat in preparing the paper is appreciated;

(b)    Collecting data on children is more difficult and sensitive than on adults. The Task Force should be mindful of the practical and ethical challenges ahead. For example, some age groups are not amenable to interviewing; some issues need to be treated differently for different age groups (e.g. pregnancy); there can be a conflict between ensuring confidentiality and interviewer's obligation to report a crime;

(c)    Many data sources need to be taken into account: administrative data, surveys and others. The Task Force should explicitly discuss various ways of data collection and their complexities;

(d)    Data gaps are significant. The Task Force should focus on the three areas proposed in the concept note but make it clear that there are issues beyond those areas, such as poverty, well-being and education;

(e)    The selection of indicators in the concept note deserves more discussion. At the moment, they focus on the volume of phenomena, while there are no indicators on outcomes;

(f)    Some statements in the document are too categorical, such as on placement of children in residential care as a form of violence;

(g)    The Task Force should work in two phases: start with an overview of the current situation concerning definitions, standards and methods, get feedback from users and then tackle the thematic areas.

**Conclusion**

20.    The Bureau approved the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on statistics on children, adolescents and youth. The Task Force will take into account the comments from

the Bureau and detailed comments sent by OECD and present a work plan in October 2020. The work plan should reflect a two-step strategy, recognize the challenges, and clarify the sequence of activities and deliverables in each step. Canada expressed interest in joining the Task Force. OECD will follow the work.

## D. Measuring social exclusion

*Documentation*: ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/8 by CES Task Force

21.     The Bureau discussed the progress report of the Task Force. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a)     The topic is complex and there is a diversity of approaches;

(b)     Demonstration of linkages to SDG indicators and good practices on communication are particularly important. For users it is hard to understand how social exclusion differs from social inclusion, social cohesion and subjective and objective well-being. It will be useful to see how these terms relate each other and how they are defined in different countries. A short description and graph could be helpful;

(c)     Lack of common definitions can be an obstacle in establishing linkages between concepts. This may require agreeing on some minimal conceptual taxonomy. The Task Force should be pragmatic, focus on utility and practical application and not be overly ambitious;

(d)     Lessons learned regarding the process could be shared with the Task Force on statistics on youth and children as there are similar challenges.

**Conclusion**

22.     The Bureau extended the mandate of the Task Force by one year. The Task Force will take into account comments by the Bureau and submit their outputs to the 2020 October Bureau meeting.

23.     Canada is considering joining the Task Force and offering to co-chair to support the final phase of the work (to be confirmed).

## E. Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals - report on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe regional platform

*Documentation:* ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/10 by UNECE

24.     The Bureau was informed about the progress with the availability of the UNECE regional platform on statistics for SDGs. The Knowledge Hub has been available since December 2019, the dashboard was released in March 2020 on the occasion of the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development together with a report *Towards achieving SDGs in the UNECE region*, and the database became available in April.

25.     The following points were made in the discussion:

• There are many SDG dashboards available, there is a need for harmonisation of data and its presentation in different types of databases and platforms.

• Improving metadata for the global SDG indicators is one of the priorities to better harmonise the SDG data.

26.     The Bureau considered input to the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on SDGs following a request from ECOSOC to all UNECE subsidiary bodies. The groups were asked to identify critical gaps and priority measures to accelerate progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda in their specific area. The following points were considered as priority for official statistics:

• **Statistical offices should be involved in strategic discussions on national data infrastructures**, for example when formulating national data strategies, updating legislation on data access and use, setting up administrative registers and geospatial

data holdings, etc. The capability of statistical offices to produce good quality data often depends on whether statistical needs are taken into account in national discussions on these issues.

• **Access to data sources is a crucial issue for official statistics**, both to new sources (such as big data, geospatial data) and more traditional ones, such as administrative records. There are legal, administrative and technical barriers. The big data sources are often privately owned, not sustainable, follow different technical standards and are of variable quality. Administrative sources have the biggest potential for producing official statistics but their existence, quality, information content, format and access are a big concern, especially in developing countries.

• **Maintaining the needed statistical capacity** to meet the increasing requirements for more timely, disaggregated and high-quality data, in an increasing number of areas, some of which are new to official statistics, is a challenge. Partnerships with other data producers are critical for meeting these needs. Requests for new statistics (including for SDGs) come in addition to the economic, social and environmental statistics produced on a regular basis. This requires an increased human and technical capacity while the resources for official statistics are often shrinking. Despite the increased attention to data and measurement, only 0.34% of the total development support is currently targeted to data and statistics (according to Paris21 2019 report).

• **Solutions should be found to leaving no-one behind in data.** Disaggregation into all possible vulnerable groups would need an enormous amount of data. Moreover, often it is legally not allowed to collect data on sensitive issues, such as ethnicity, or religion, and the need to ensure confidentiality may prohibit publishing the data. Producing such data within official statistics with high quality comes with a very high price tag, while there are concerns over the quality and impartiality of data on vulnerable groups produced by civil society organizations or pressure groups. Partnerships are critical in this respect. All countries are grappling with this problem and harmonized approaches at the international level are needed.

• **Globalisation** – the economy and society are becoming more and more global and their environmental impacts do not stop at borders. International cooperation and support are needed for national statistical offices: to be able to access and exchange data on multinational corporations, to approach global companies holding big data to get access for statistical purposes, to negotiate licences of software use for statistical purposes, etc.

27.     Some recommendations to accelerate progress are:

        (a)     Recognise the key role of national statistical offices as producers of independent, trustworthy and high-quality data. Support their role as coordinators of national statistical systems to promote the use of common methodologies and standards and ensure comparability of data;

        (b)     Step up the financial support for official statistics, especially for statistical capacity development;

        (c)     Make use of the expertise of national statistical offices in developing national data strategies, setting up and maintaining administrative and geospatial data holdings. Statistical offices have extensive expertise to offer on working with data: ensuring quality and impartiality, protecting privacy, cooperating with different data producers, etc. They are in a good position to become data stewards at national level;

        (d)     Review legislation and administrative procedures concerning data access to enable their use for producing official statistics. This will increase availability and quality of data while reducing the burden on citizens and enterprises to provide data.

**Conclusion**

28.     The Bureau welcomed progress with the UNECE regional platform on statistics for SDGs. The points raised by the Bureau as input to HLPF were included in the UNECE submission to HLPF.

## F.  Measuring hazardous events and disasters

*Documentation:* ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/11 by UNECE

29.  The Bureau discussed the new terms of reference for the Task Force on measuring hazardous events and disasters. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a)  Continuation of the work of the Task Force is supported;

(b)  Integration of statistics and geography is very important in this area;

(c)  The two-phased approach as proposed is not ambitious enough. The terms of reference should either be limited to the first phase or have a more ambitious timeline for all outputs. A shorter timeline is preferred as a rapid response is needed in case of a crisis;

(d)  The group should be pragmatic and consider adopting some methods of work which function well under HLG-MOS – annual outputs and iterative approaches. An expert meeting on the topic can be helpful;

(e)  Canada is using the Recommendations prepared by the Task Force and has put in place protocols for making data available in case of an emergency. For example, this helped to prioritize the interventions during a recent snowstorm in northern Canada. It is recommended that other countries also develop an "emergency data kit".

**Conclusion**

30.  The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Task Force on measuring hazardous events and disasters until 2022, focusing on the activities planned for the first phase.

## G.  Modernization of official statistics

*Documentation:* ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/12, Add.1-3 by HLG-MOS

31.  The Bureau reviewed the outcomes of the projects overseen by HLG-MOS in 2019 and the priority projects for 2020, the updated terms of reference of HLG-MOS and a new version of the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM). The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a)  The Bureau congratulated HLG-MOS chaired by Canada, the modernization community and the supporting UNECE secretariat for excellent work. All members considered the engagement beneficial and transformative for their organizations. Virtual communities of practice could be explored in the future to enable more people to participate;

(b)  The work is increasingly relevant for international organizations in their own data management activities. Coordination between HLG-MOS and the European Statistical System was also highly appreciated;

(c)  The projects selected for 2021 were supported. Privacy preserving techniques are very important to support the infrastructure of the future and more work on this will be needed;

(d)  Continuing linking of GSBPM with geospatial data is important and will benefit from a metadata glossary. Some work on this has already been done in Mexico but it needs to be updated and aligned with the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework;

(e)  Balance between new activities and maintenance of existing models remain a challenge. A review of the use and impact of the HLG-MOS outputs would be useful;

(f)  Poland expressed interest in continuing to chair the Communications and Capabilities Group. IMF offered to help connect the modernization community with less developed countries and contribute to other work streams in addition to the machine learning where they are already active;

(g)     UNSD invited HLG-MOS to coordinate with the UN Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data which develops machine learning algorithms for crop identification using satellite data and has a task team on privacy preserving techniques.

**Conclusion**

32.     The Bureau approved the annual report of HLG-MOS and the updated terms of reference for 2020-2022. The Bureau approved the new version of GSIM and decided that it can be presented to the CES plenary session for endorsement.

## H.     Classification of International Statistical Activities

*Documentation:* ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/14 by UNECE

33.     The Bureau discussed the proposal by the Secretariat for the process of updating the Classification of International Statistical Activities. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a)     The updating process could set an example how to update standards where the CES Bureau is a custodian, also taking into account the experience of HLG-MOS work on standards;

(b)     It was recommended to keep the changes to the classification to the minimum. Climate change-related statistics and environmental accounting should be included in the updated version;

(c)     The UN Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications offers to contribute to the work;

(d)     UNSD proposes to use the name "International Standard Classification of Statistical Activities".

**Conclusion**

34.     The Bureau approved the proposal. Canada, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand (chairing the Expert Group on international statistical classifications) and UNSD volunteered to participate in the work.

# IV.     Preparation of the Conference of European Statisticians 2020 plenary session

## A.     Organization of the 2020 Conference of European Statisticians seminar on "Impacts of globalisation and digitalization on the future of economic statistics"

*Documentation*: ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/15 by UNECE

35.     The Bureau discussed the organization of the seminar based on an updated outline prepared by the seminar organizers, Canada, Finland and Norway *[Note: Following the CES Bureau meeting, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the seminar will be organised virtually and in a different format]*

36.     The Bureau made the following points:

(a)     The seminar title includes three ideas: digitalization, globalization and their impact on the future of economic statistics. It was suggested to have a clearer focus for the seminar;

(b)     The seminar should be strategic and show leadership in the region in addressing the pressing needs of users. There is a disjoint between users and producers, and a demand for better collaboration between them;

(c)     The first session should set the basis for further discussion and help understand the "what", i.e. the changing user needs. Even in the UNECE region, there is a variety of user needs, and countries are in different stages. Sharing this experience will be enlightening;

(d)     The seminar should distinguish between two user perspectives: national and global. National users are more interested in the information about the domestic economy which reflects the impact of globalization and digitalization. A global user is more interested in the data on MNEs and global value chains;

(e)     The second session should be more about the "how": how we can exercise leadership, bring the needs of the global system and the national systems closer and adopt more integrated approaches. The seminar should contribute to global discussion about how existing governance structure can help better coordinate and respond to user needs, and how can CES contribute to that;

(f)     As a keynote speaker who shares the user perspective, the organizer has invited Andrew Wyckoff, the director of the OECD's Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation. The Bureau has additionally proposed inviting Philip Lane, the chief economist of ECB, a former governor of the Central Bank of Ireland and a former academic. Inviting someone from WTO or the Chief Economist of UNCTAD are also possible options. A possibility of panel discussion instead of keynote was suggested.

**Conclusion**

37.     The organizers will take into account the comments from the Bureau in adjusting the plans for the seminar. Eurostat, Ireland, New Zealand, Poland and OECD have offered papers.

## B.     Organization of the 2020 Conference of European Statisticians seminar on "Implementing the role of National Statistical Offices in an era of expanded possibilities"

*Documentation*: ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/16 by Denmark and HLG-MOS

38.     The Bureau discussed the organization of the seminar based on an updated outline prepared by the seminar organizers, Denmark and HLG-MOS. *[Note: Following the CES Bureau meeting due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the seminar will be organised virtually and in a different format.]*

39.     The Bureau made the following comments:

(a)     It is important to give an equal role to both the statistical and geospatial communities during the seminar, as it takes place during the joint day with UN-GGIM: Europe. The keynote speeches and panel membership should be at the same level for both communities;

(b)     The seminar should focus more on finding the common areas of interest between spatial and statistical communities;

(c)     At the same time, it will be very important to follow up with concrete steps from the 2019 seminar on 'Emerging role of national statistical offices as offices for statistics and data' based on the paper and action plan prepared by the informal task team led by Estonia. The stewardship role of NSOs and concrete actions should be considered under a separate item (based on the paper by Estonia et al., the Irish paper can be considered under this agenda item).

**Conclusion**

40.     The seminar title will be changed to 'New roles for national statistical agencies and geospatial agencies in emerging national data ecosystems'. The Secretariat will prepare a 1-pager on the aims and expected outcome of the seminar, making the most efficient use of what has been done so far on the preparations. The CES agenda will be updated accordingly.

## C.    Better measurement of the digital transformation

*Documentation*: ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/17 by Eurostat, IMF, OECD and UNECE

41.    The Bureau reviewed the paper and made the following comments:

(a)    The paper covers several relevant aspects: (i) work of international organizations to make digitalization visible in statistics (classifications, breakdowns, free services), (ii) guidance on difficult conceptual and measurement issues (crypto assets, value of data; price and volume measures and quality adjustments) and (iii) opportunities from digitalisation;

(b)    The paper provides very useful references to sources where countries can find guidance on how to deal with various digitalization challenges;

(c)    The title of the paper should be changed. It is not a concept note but provides information about initiatives of international organizations to measure digitalization;

(d)    A big part of the paper is devoted to work under national accounts and the terminology could be difficult to understand for non-specialized readers. It could be more balanced and national accounts moved towards the end of the paper;

(e)    Various challenges were mentioned, including digital platforms, the treatment of data as an asset, etc. International organizations should play a role in getting access to the data on digital platforms.

**Conclusion:**

42.    The authors will finalize the paper taking into account the comments made, with a view of presenting it to the 2020 CES plenary session. The title will be revised to better reflect the content.

## D.    Draft agenda and timetable for the 2020 Conference of European Statisticians plenary session

*Documentation*: ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/18 by UNECE

43.    The Bureau discussed the provisional agenda of the CES 2020 plenary session.

**Conclusion**

44.    The agenda and timetable of the CES plenary session will be updated taking into account the suggestions of the CES Bureau on the CES seminars (see paras 35-40). *[Note: Following the CES Bureau meeting, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the CES plenary session will be organized as a virtual meeting with a shortened agenda.]*

# V.    Conference of European Statisticians' guidelines and recommendations for endorsement in 2020

## A.    Population and housing censuses beyond 2020

*Documentation*: ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/19 by the Task Force

45.    The CES Bureau discussed the draft *New frontiers for censuses beyond 2020.* The document analyses the future of population and housing censuses after the 2020 round with the aim to inform the recommendations for the 2030 round of censuses. The Bureau welcomed the paper noting that it captures the relevant key issues for future censuses.

**Conclusion**

46.    The Secretariat will circulate the draft *New frontiers for censuses beyond 2020* for electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the 2020 CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the document.

## B.  Longitudinal data on migration

47.     The Bureau reviewed the draft *Guidance on the use of longitudinal data for migration statistics.*  The Bureau commended the Task Force chaired by Statistics Canada for the very good work and made the following comments:

(a)     The document is a useful roadmap for NSOs who start this kind of work and proves that access, use and linking of microdata is a top priority issue. Data comparability between countries is very important;

(b)     The Guidelines assume that NSO has a minimum legal capacity of accessing administrative data which may not be valid for certain countries. The document could offer some alternatives for the countries who do not have the access;

(c)     The Task Force is requested to add references to an earlier output on longitudinal data and the following global references: *Handbook on measuring international migration through population censuses* (2017, Draft), *Guidelines on the legislative framework for civil registration, vital statistics and identity management* (2019, Final draft), *International recommendations on refugee statistics* (2018), *Handbook on civil registration and vital statistics systems: management, operation and maintenance, Revision 1* (2018).

**Conclusion**

48.     The Secretariat will take into account comments by the Bureau and circulate the draft *Guidance on the use of longitudinal data for migration statistics* for electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the 2020 CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the Guidance.

49.     The Secretariat will present a proposal to the Bureau regarding a potential follow up to this work in October 2020.

## C.  Disaggregated poverty measurement

*Documentation:* ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/21 by the Task Force

50.     The Bureau reviewed the draft *Poverty measurement: Guide to data disaggregation.* The Bureau congratulated the Task Force for an excellent work resulting in an extensive and very useful guide, and made the following comments:

(a)     The Guide covers a number of issues related to survey methodology that are applicable also in other areas;

(b)     The Guide includes useful general recommendations on poverty measurement going beyond income poverty.

**Conclusion**

51.     The Secretariat will circulate the draft *Poverty measurement: guide to data disaggregation* for electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the 2020 CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the Guide.

52.     The Secretariat will present a proposal to the Bureau how to follow up on this work in October 2020. Canada expressed willingness to contribute to further work on this topic.

## D.  Communicating gender statistics

*Documentation:* ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/22 by the Task Force

53.      The Bureau reviewed the draft *Guide on communicating gender statistics.* The document provides guidance on communicating gender statistics to both policymakers and the general public. The Bureau made the following comments:

(a)    It is important to make a difference between communicating gender statistics and communicating policy messages. The Guide gives good examples how to cater to different audiences;

(b)    In some cases, the Guide could provide more explanation of the issues and bring examples of challenges;

(c)    It would be useful to have a glossary to help a casual user with the language concerning gender issues. This could be part of the planned online repository of good practice examples.

**Conclusion**

54.    The Secretariat will circulate the draft *Guide on communicating gender statistics* for electronic consultation to all CES members. Statistical offices will be invited to forward the Guide to other agencies in their country who deal with gender issues. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the 2020 CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the Guide.

## E.    Refining the set of climate indicators

*Documentation*: ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/23 by the Task Force)

55.    The Bureau reviewed the refined set of core climate-change related indicators and statistics, and the guidelines for the implementation of the set. The initial set was endorsed by the Conference in 2017. Following the CES request, the Task Force refined the set based on outcomes of the pilot testing, and developed methodologies, data sources and guidelines for its implementation.

**Conclusion**

56.    The Secretariat will circulate the updated set of core climate-change related indicators and statistics, and the guidelines for its implementation for electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the documents will be submitted to the 2020 CES plenary session for endorsement.

## F.    Waste statistics

*Documentation:* ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/24 by the Task Force

57.    The Bureau discussed the progress report by the Task Force on waste statistics and the request to extend the mandate of the group by one year. The Bureau made the following comments:

(a)    The Task Force has made good progress explaining the differences between the definitions used. It will be helpful to have a concordance table of how the concepts relate and aim at comparability within the existing limits. The report will focus on these issues where consensus can be found;

(b)    The main objective is not to have an ideal definition but to have a common conceptual understanding of the waste flows. This is very important in the context of e.g. circular economy;

(c)    It is useful to understand why specific definitions of waste have been put forward in Basel convention, SEEA, etc.

(d)    Concrete results and clarity about the objective of the work is needed.

**Conclusion**

58.    The Task Force will report at the next Bureau meeting on the progress made.

## VI. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistics programme of work documents

*Documentation:* ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/25 and 26 by UNECE

59.     The Bureau reviewed the Report on the implementation of the Statistical Programme 2019 and the draft Programme of Work for 2021.

### Conclusion

60.     The Bureau approved the Report on the implementation of the Statistical Programme 2019 (ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/26). The Bureau took note of the draft Programme of Work for 2021 (ECE/CES/BUR/2020/FEB/25).

## VII. Dates and venue of next meetings

61.     The Bureau decided on the dates and venues of its next meetings as follows:

- 15-16 October 2020 (Geneva, Switzerland)
- 17-18 February 2021 (Dublin, Ireland)
- 13-14 October 2021 (Helsinki, Finland)
- 16-17 February 2022 (Geneva, Switzerland).

62.     The 68th CES plenary session will take place on 22-24 (a.m.) June 2020, back-to-back with the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (24 p.m. June – 26 June 2020) and the plenary session of UN-GGIM: Europe (22 June 2020), as decided by the 66th CES plenary session (ECE/CES/95). *[Note: Due to the COVID 19 restrictions, the meetings will take place primarily virtually. All participants will be informed about the details of the virtual meetings.]*

63.     The 69th CES plenary session is planned to take place during the week of 21-25 June 2021 in Paris (tbc), back-to-back with OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy.

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