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**Economic Commission for Europe****Conference of European Statisticians****68<sup>th</sup> plenary session**

Geneva, 22-24 June 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

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

The plenary session will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 9:30 on Monday, 22 June 2020.

**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
2. Impacts of globalization and digitalization on the future of economic statistics.
  - (a) Session 1: Globalisation and policy needs
  - (b) Session 2: Globalisation, digitalization and the future of economic statistics: Need for increased collaboration and coordination
3. Better measurement of the digital transformation.
4. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference:
  - (a) Exchange and sharing of economic data;
  - (b) Climate change-related statistics and indicators;
  - (c) Disaggregated poverty measurement.
  - (d) Intra-household decision-making;
  - (e) Communicating gender statistics;
  - (f) Longitudinal data on migration;
  - (g) Population and housing censuses beyond 2020;

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5. New roles for national statistical agencies and geospatial agencies in emerging national data ecosystems.
  - (a) Session 1: What implications do emerging national data ecosystems have for statistical and geospatial agencies
  - (b) Session 2: Experiences and results of concrete steps already taken by NSOs and the geospatial communities to modernize their role
6. Integrating statistical and geospatial data: challenges and next steps.
7. Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals.
8. Matters arising from the fifty-first session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.
9. Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region: outcomes of the recent in-depth reviews carried out by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians.
10. 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.
  - (c) Report on the Regional Coordination Group on data and statistics
11. Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2021 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians.
12. Data stewardship – next steps for NSOs
13. Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics.
14. Other business.
15. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting.

*Note: Agenda items 5 – 8 will be discussed in a joint CES and UN-GGIM: Europe session*

## **II. Annotations**

The sixty-eighth 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/2019/2).

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

The provisional agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the CES Bureau following its February 2020 meeting. The provisional agenda is presented for the approval of the Conference.

## **2. Impacts of globalization and digitalization on the future of economic statistics**

This part of the CES plenary session will be organised in a seminar format by Canada, Finland and Norway.

The seminar will discuss the future of economic statistics with focus on globalisation challenges, and collaboration and coordination between compilers of statistics and statistical groups. The aim of the seminar is to increase understanding of user needs, and identify some concrete steps forward towards building a responsive economic statistics system that provides relevant information for policy makers.

### **(a) Session 1: Globalisation and policy needs**

Norway will organize the session. The session will discuss the user needs for statistics on globalisation, and the role of NSOs in meeting these needs and filling data gaps.

### **(b) Session 2: Globalisation, digitalization and the future of economic statistics: Need for increased collaboration and coordination**

Canada will organize the session. The session will build on the progress of work of the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics. It will discuss the following aspects: (i) Need for increasing collaboration and partnering between compilers of statistics, and simplifying the sharing of economic data, learning, methods and tools to avoid duplication of efforts and improve responsiveness, and (ii) Governance structures and coordination mechanisms for economic statistics.

The seminar will conclude with identification of concrete steps and recommendations for further work.

## **3. Better measurement of the digital transformation**

The discussion will be based on a paper by Eurostat, International Monetary Fund and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on recent work and future plans of international organisations on measuring the digital economy and digital transformation. The discussion will focus on statistical measurement issues for the digital economy, the collaborative economy and the digital transformation, and the related new data sources with the aim to identify ways forward for better measuring digitalization.

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

Seven documents are planned to be submitted to the 2020 CES plenary session for endorsement.

### **(a) Exchange and sharing of economic data**

The CES Bureau set up a Task Force on exchange and sharing of economic data in February 2017. The objectives of the Task Force were (1) in the first stage, to analyse examples of data exchange implemented by national statistical offices (NSOs) that help to provide data on activities of multi-national enterprises, identify enablers and obstacles of data sharing and review the practical requirements of data exchange; (2) at the second stage, to develop guidance, tools and principles to facilitate the exchange of economic data by NSOs. In 2018, the Task Force reported to the Conference on the results of the first stage of the work.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Guide to sharing of economic data* at the October 2019 meeting, and asked the Secretariat to send it for an 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.

**(b) Climate change-related statistics and indicators**

In 2017, the Conference endorsed the report of a Task Force on an initial set of key climate change-related indicators. The Conference extended the mandate of the Task Force to refine the initial set of key climate-change related indicators based on the outcomes of a pilot testing, and to develop methodologies, data sources and guidance for implementation.

The CES Bureau reviewed the updated set of core climate change-related indicators and statistics, and the related implementation guidelines at its February 2020 meeting, and asked the Secretariat to send the documents for an 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 documents.

**(c) Disaggregated poverty measurement**

In October 2017, the CES Bureau set up a Task Force on disaggregated poverty measures to consolidate current and emerging good practices in disaggregating poverty indicators and in assessing their robustness, and develop recommendations to statistical offices for the production, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated poverty measures.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Poverty measurement: guide to data disaggregation* at its February 2020 meeting and asked the Secretariat to send it for an 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.

**(d) Intra-household decision-making**

In February 2017, the CES Bureau set up a Task Force on measuring intra-household power and decision-making to provide recommendations to statistical offices on how to measure the gendered dimensions of intra-household power and decision-making.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Recommendations on Measuring Intra-Household Power and Decision-Making* at the October 2019 meeting, and asked the Secretariat to send the document for an electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Recommendations will be submitted to the 2020 CES plenary session for endorsement.

**(e) Communicating gender statistics**

The CES Bureau set up a Task Force on Communicating gender statistics in February 2018 to develop guidance for national statistical offices on communicating gender statistics, focusing on both communication with policymakers and communication with the public.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Guidance on communicating gender statistics* at its February 2020 meeting and asked the Secretariat to send the document for an 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.

**(f) Longitudinal data on migration**

The CES Bureau set up a Task Force on the use of longitudinal data for migration statistics in February 2018 to prepare guidelines on how to incorporate longitudinal data into annual migration statistics and complement the available cross-sectional measurements.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Guidance on the use of longitudinal data for migration statistics* at its February 2020 meeting and asked the Secretariat to send the document for an 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.

**(g) Population and housing censuses beyond 2020**

In February 2018, the CES Bureau approved a proposal by the Steering Group on population and housing censuses to undertake work on censuses beyond 2020. The aim was to prepare an in-depth analysis on the future of population and housing censuses after the 2020 round. The output was a document *New frontiers for censuses beyond 2020* that will inform the recommendations for the 2030 round of censuses.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft *New frontiers for censuses beyond 2020* at its February 2020 meeting and asked the Secretariat to send it for an electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the document will be submitted to the 2020 CES plenary session for endorsement.

**Joint session with UN-GGIM: Europe**

Referring to the decision of the 2018 CES plenary session (ECE/CES/95 para 45), the Conference will hold a common session of CES and UN-GGIM: Europe on 23 June 2020. The UN-GGIM: Europe plenary session will take place back to back with the Conference on 22 June 2020.

The agenda items 5 – 8 below will be held in a joint session with UN-GGIM: Europe.

**5. New roles for national statistical agencies and geospatial agencies in emerging national data ecosystems**

This part of the CES plenary session will be organised in a seminar format by Denmark and Canada, the Chair of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics.

The seminar will explore the implications of the development of national data ecosystems for national statistical and geospatial agencies. It will consider the perspectives of both communities with a view to identifying areas of common interest, as well as common issues, where the communities can work together more closely in the future.

Participants will be invited to share experiences, good practices and lessons learned regarding the cooperation between national statistical and geospatial agencies as they modernise their roles in response to the challenges and opportunities offered by emerging national data ecosystems.

**(a) Session 1: What implications do emerging national data ecosystems have for statistical and geospatial agencies**

The session will be organized by Poland. Geospatial information and official statistics are two of the cornerstones of a national data ecosystem. The session will build on the discussions held at the CES 2019 plenary session on the emerging role of NSOs. It will also consider the same challenges from the perspective of geospatial organisations, and seek to identify areas of common interest where the statistical and geospatial communities can work together.

**(b) Session 2: Experiences and results of concrete steps already taken by NSOs and the geospatial communities to modernize their role**

The session will be organized by Mexico. It will include a panel discussion highlighting practical steps taken by statistical and geospatial organisations to modernize their roles in the

context of new data ecosystems through specific case-studies. The discussion will be followed by questions to the panellists from the audience.

The seminar will conclude with recommendations for further work that the statistical and geospatial communities could undertake jointly to modernize their roles in the new data ecosystems.

## **6. Integrating statistical and geospatial data: challenges and next steps**

The Conference will be informed about the recent activities of UN-GGIM: Europe, Eurostat and UNECE in this area. The statistical and geospatial communities will discuss how to facilitate the integration of statistical and geospatial data by identifying current challenges and possible solutions. Challenges may be technical, or related to policy or privacy concerns. The discussion will aim to identify and prioritize practical steps that could be taken jointly by the statistical and geospatial communities within the UNECE region.

## **7. Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals**

### **(a) Second Edition of the Road Map on statistics for SDGs**

The Conference adopted the first edition of the *CES Road Map on statistics for SDGs* in June 2017. Since then, countries have acquired considerable experience in implementing the Road Map. In 2019, the Conference supported developing the second edition of the Road Map to take on board recent developments, address the emerging challenges, and provide practical advice to reduce the burden and simplify the work on statistics for SDGs. The Conference will be informed about further progress made in implementation of the *CES Road Map on statistics for SDGs* (based on the results of a recent survey), and the preparation of a second edition of the Road Map.

### **(b) UNECE Regional Platform on statistics for SDGs**

The Conference will be informed about the UNECE Regional Platform on statistics for SDGs, consisting of a knowledge hub, dashboard and database of SDG indicators. The Conference will be also informed about the regional report on progress towards SDGs that was prepared for the UNECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in March 2020.

### **(c) Using geospatial data and tools for SDG indicators**

Using the opportunity of a joint session with UN-GGIM: Europe, the Conference will be informed about the progress in using geospatial data and tools for SDG indicators.

## **8. Matters arising from the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations Statistical Commission**

The agenda item will focus on the implications of the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians. The participants will be also informed about the progress of work of UNSD with the geospatial community at the global level.

**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 Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians**

The in-depth reviews are important tools of coordination to address emerging issues and identify gaps or duplication of work, focusing on strategic issues. 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, namely: ‘International migration and cross-border mobility’ (October 2019), ‘Measuring well-being in the era of digital society: implications for official statistics’ (February 2020), and the ‘Role of statistical community in climate action’ (February 2020).

**10. 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 in 2019 (ECE/CES/2020/14);
- (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 planning and reporting process:

- (i) UNECE Statistical Programme for 2020 (ECE/CES/2020/15). The document is in line with the Programme of Work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2020 (ECE/CES/2019/15), adopted by the Conference in June 2019;
- (ii) Programme of Work of the UNECE Statistics subprogramme for 2021, including publications programme (ECE/CES/2020/16). The programme of work will continue to reflect the annual format presented in 2020 in line with General Assembly resolution 72/266, with enrichments reflecting General Assembly resolution 74/251 adopted on 27 December 2019.

**(c) Report on the Regional Coordination Group on data and statistics**

As an outcome of the reform of the UN Development System, a Regional UN Coordination Group on Data and Statistics has been set up (building on the former UNECE Issue-Based Coalition on Data and Statistics). The Group consists of the regional offices of the UN organizations active in the UNECE region. The group will deliver a short report on its activities to Conference for information.

## **11. Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2021 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians**

The Conference will select topics for the CES seminars in 2021 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 2020 among the CES member countries and international organizations.

## **12. Data stewardship – next steps for NSOs**

The Conference will discuss the emerging concept of data stewardship at the national level, and the role NSOs can play in this context. It will discuss how NSOs can use their expertise in data collection and management to increase their influence in cross-government data strategies. The reputation and experience of NSOs can be leveraged to enhance trust in government wide data systems, which, in turn, can lead to increased access to administrative and other data for statistical purposes. The discussion will be based on the paper by an informal task team consisting of Albania, Canada, Estonia (lead), Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland and the UNECE Secretariat, prepared as a follow-up to the CES 2019 seminar on ‘Emerging role of national statistical offices as offices for statistics and data’.

## **13. 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**

HLG-MOS will submit the annual report on its work to the Conference for approval. The Conference will be invited to discuss the outcomes of recent projects in the area of statistical modernisation and share experience in implementing the modernisation models, the benefits they have delivered and the issues that were encountered.

### **(b) Revision of the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM)**

HLG-MOS will present the latest version of the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM). Previous version of this model was endorsed by the plenary session in June 2017. The Conference will be invited to endorse the new version of the model.

## **14. Other business**

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

## **15. 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 (<http://www.unece.org/statistics/meetings-and-events.html#/>) before the plenary session.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Item/Programme</i>
<b>Monday, 22 June</b>	
09:30-09:40	1
09:40-15:00	2
15:00-15:30	3 (a)
15:50-16:30	4
16:30-17:30	3 (b) – (f)
<b>Tuesday, 23 June</b>	
09:30-15:00	5
15:00-15:50	6
16:10-16:50	7
16:50-17:00	8
17:00-17:10	9
17:10-17:30	10
<b>Wednesday, 24 June</b>	
09:30-09:45	11
09:45-10:35	12
10:35-11:00	13
11:20-11:50	3(g)
11:50 - 12:30	14, 15