

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

For discussion and
recommendations

Meeting of the 2015/2016 Bureau
Luxembourg, 9-10 January 2016

Item IV (b) of the Provisional
Agenda

**ORGANIZATION OF THE 2016 CES DISCUSSION ON STATISTICS FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**Prepared by the Secretariat together with
the CES Steering Group on statistics for SDGs**

This paper presents the draft outline for the discussion at the CES 2016 plenary session on statistics for SDGs. The Bureau provided recommendations on the organization of the discussion at the 2016 CES.

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its June 2015 plenary session, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) selected the topic “**How to implement the monitoring system for Sustainable Development Goals**” to be discussed at the CES 2016 plenary session. The Conference asked the CES Bureau to consider the format of the discussion on this topic.
2. The discussion will take place on 28 April 2016. This is a good timing taking into account that the UN Statistical Commission is planned to adopt the global list of indicators for monitoring SDGs in March 2016. Furthermore, the discussions are ongoing how to organise the regional SDG reviews at the policy level based on the UN Secretary General’s report on the follow-up and review process that was published in January 2016. The reviews have to be informed by data which will have implications on statistics.

II. AIM OF THE DISCUSSION

3. **The main aim of the discussion at the CES 2016 will be to get input from the CES members to the draft road map for developing official statistics for SDGs, to be prepared by the Steering Group.** The CES 2016 will also provide an opportunity to discuss the regional review and reporting, including the need, criteria and how to establish priorities for developing regional indicators, as encouraged by the UN outcome document *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The Task Force on adjusting the *CES Recommendations on measuring sustainable development* to SDGs will present the results of a mapping exercise conducted to match the SDGs and targets to the themes in the *CES Recommendations on measuring sustainable development* and the possible use of the CES framework to facilitate communication of SDGs to stakeholders.
4. The Conference will be also informed about the status of statistical work for informing the SDG follow-up and review process at the global level.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE DISCUSSION

5. The discussion will be organised by the secretariat in collaboration with the CES Steering Group on statistics for SDGs (the TOR are presented in document ECE/CES/BUR/2016/FEB/5).

6. The following documents will provide the main basis for the discussion:

- (a) A summary of the developments with regard to the SDG follow-up and review process at the global and regional levels, and the related statistical work (*Report of the Secretary-General on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level*, outcomes of the UN Statistical Commission, outcomes of the meetings of Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG) and the High Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for post 2015 monitoring (HLG for post-2015 monitoring)¹, UNECE strategy for the follow-up and review process at the regional level, etc.);
- (b) Report by the Task Force on adjusting the *CES Recommendations for measuring sustainable development* to SDGs;
- (c) First draft of the CES road map for developing official statistics for SDGs by the Steering Group.

7. The discussion is planned to focus mainly on the draft road map with the aim to get input from CES members on different parts of the road map and priorities in its implementation.

8. Furthermore, several countries have plans to conduct an assessment of their capacities to produce data on SDG indicators (e.g. Canada, Denmark, and United States). It would be interesting to learn more about how they plan to carry out these assessments, so that other countries could learn and adjust. The Conference may consider preparation of some guidelines for this purpose as one of the outcomes of the discussion.

IV. SUGGESTED TIMETABLE

9. The topic will be discussed during the morning session on Thursday, 28 April 2016, from 9:30 to 12:30, including one coffee break of 20 minutes. This leaves two hours and forty minutes of effective meeting time.

10. The following general timetable can be suggested for the discussion:

9:30 – 9:40	(10 min)	Introduction by the co-Chairs of the Steering Group
9:40 – 9:55	(15 min)	Presentation by the secretariat of the developments related to SDGs (referred to in para 6(b)) (10 min presentation, 5 min questions/answers)
9:55 – 10:20	(25 min)	Presentation by the Task Force on adjusting the CES framework to SDGs (15 min presentation, 10 min questions/answers)

¹ The group will be renamed during the 47th UN Statistical Commission in March 2016 into “High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

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| 10: 20 –10:50 | (30 min) | Presentations by 2-3 countries on their plans for assessments of national capacities to produce SDG indicators
(5 min presentation + 5 min questions/answers per country) |
| <i>10:50 – 11:10</i> | <i>(20 min)</i> | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:10 – 11:30 | (20 min) | Presentation of the draft road map by the Steering Group
(20 min presentation) |
| 11:30 – 12:20 | (50 min) | Discussion on developing statistics for SDGs to obtain input to the road map and to help establish priorities |
| 12:20 – 12:30 | (15 min) | Conclusions and next steps by the co-Chairs |

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