

Meeting of the CES Bureau  
Ottawa, Canada, 11-12 October 2016

## REPORT

<b>I.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
	A. Measuring governance .....	2
	B. Exchange of economic data and data sharing .....	3
<b>III.</b>	<b>UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME FOR 2017</b> .....	<b>4</b>
	A. Statistical programme for 2017 and a list of meetings.....	4
	B. Statistics for SDGs: updated road map .....	5
	C. Climate change-related statistics: outcome of the 2016 Expert Forum .....	6
	D. Waste statistics: proposal for work .....	7
	E. Global production: further work .....	7
	F. Capacity building to respond to the challenges of SDGs, geospatial statistics and modernization.....	8
<b>IV.</b>	<b>FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2016 CES PLENARY SESSION</b> .....	<b>9</b>
	A. Evaluation of the 64th plenary session.....	9
	B. Follow-up to the 2016 CES seminar on strategic partnerships .....	9
	C. Follow-up to the 2016 CES seminar on geospatial services based on official statistics	10
<b>V.</b>	<b>PREPARATION FOR THE 2017 CES PLENARY SESSION</b> .....	<b>11</b>
	A. Organization of the 2017 CES seminar on measuring poverty .....	11
	B. Organization of the 2017 CES seminar on the next generation of statisticians and data scientists .....	11
	C. Provisional agenda for the 2017 CES plenary session.....	11
<b>VI.</b>	<b>CES GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENDORSEMENT</b> .....	<b>12</b>
	A. <i>Guide on Measuring Human Capital</i> and proposal for further work for final approval	12
	B. Report on <i>Defining and Measuring Circular Migration</i> for final approval.....	12
	C. <i>Recommendations on Ageing-Related Statistics</i> and proposal for further work for final approval.....	13
<b>VII.</b>	<b>PRESENTATION BY STATISTICS CANADA</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>DATES AND VENUE OF THE NEXT CES BUREAU MEETINGS</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>IX.</b>	<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b> .....	<b>14</b>

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) was held in Ottawa on 11-12 October 2016, at the invitation of Statistics Canada. The following members of the Bureau attended: M. Bruun (Chair, Finland), S. Mnatsakanyan (Armenia), K. Pesendorfer (Austria), A. Arora (Canada), J. Santaella (Mexico), E. MacPherson (New Zealand) and J. Pullinger (the United Kingdom). The following permanent observers also attended: M. Kotzeva (representing W. Radermacher, Eurostat), J.R. Rosales (representing L. M. Ducharme, IMF), M. Durand (OECD) and L. Bratanova (UNECE).

2. The following persons assisted the members of the Bureau: E. Rancourt (Canada), M-P. Scheidhauer (Eurostat) and A. Tyrkkö (Finland). T. Luige of UNECE served as Secretary of the meeting assisted by A. Peltola.
3. J. Park (United States) attended at the invitation of the Chair of the Bureau for items 3b and 3g.
4. The following persons participated in the discussion through a teleconference: S. Schweinfest (United Nations Statistics Division) for agenda items 3b and 4c; and V. Tolkki (Finland), C. Boldsen, T. Dimova and R. Peltola (UNECE) for agenda item 2b.
5. The CIS Statistics Committee (CIS-Stat) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) sent written comments on selected agenda items. The CIS-Stat comments were presented as document 5/Add.2 and the UNSD comments as a room paper. The comments were taken into account in the discussion.

## **II. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS**

### **A. Measuring governance**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/2 by Turkey, Mexico and OECD, 2/Add.1 by UNECE)*

6. The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of measuring governance based on a paper by Turkey, Mexico and OECD, and a note by UNECE. The Bureau thanked the authors of the in-depth review paper that provides a comprehensive and thorough analysis of the situation with governance statistics and a summary of a survey on country practices. The following issues were raised in the discussion:
  - The demand for governance statistics is increasing, particularly in the context of SDGs and the Goal 16 “Peace, justice and strong institutions”.
  - Governance has many dimensions and its measurement is challenging, even when narrowed down to the public institutions operating at national level. First, a common definition of governance and a conceptual framework are needed. The conceptual framework has to be useful for countries in different situations, taking into account that it is not possible to impose a common understanding of good governance on different societies. The conceptual framework should be developed in cooperation with academics, policy makers and other stakeholders.
  - Based on the conceptual framework, a measurement framework can be developed. This framework should provide guidance on what and how can be measured, what types of instruments can be used and what are their advantages and limitations.
  - There is some reluctance in NSOs to measuring governance because of its political implications. However, it is important to deliver a message that NSOs are well placed to measure governance. It is possible to do it in a way that is in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and does not compromise the integrity of the statistical office.
  - A close dialogue with users, including policy makers is very important to ensure that governments would perceive the measurement of governance as a helpful tool and not a threat. The communication should be done in a careful way to get support at policy level before embarking on the measurement actions. It has to be clearly explained for whom, why and how governance is measured.

- The in-depth review paper is a valuable contribution to the work of the Praia City Group on governance statistics. Any possible future work on measuring governance should take into account the results achieved by the Praia group.
- In addition, there are several developments at international level to advance governance statistics. For example, OECD is developing guidelines on measuring trust, to be finalized by mid-2017. A household survey that includes questions related to governance is being carried out in African countries under the Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics (ShaSA) initiative.
- It is necessary to wait for the outcomes of the current initiatives before deciding on concrete actions on governance statistics under CES.

#### Conclusion:

7. The Bureau commended the work of the Praia City Group on measuring governance, and looks forward to the results of their work. The 2017 CES plenary session will be informed about the outcome of the in-depth review to collect feedback from the Heads of statistical offices. The Bureau will review the issue again in October 2017 to take into account the outcomes of the Praia Group, and to decide on possible further work under CES.

#### **B. Exchange of economic data and data sharing** (ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/3 by Finland)

8. The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of the exchange of economic data and data sharing based on a paper by Finland. The Bureau commended the countries and organizations that contributed to the paper as it provides valuable, comprehensive and substantive insights into sharing of economic data. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

- Compiling national statistics in the globalised world is becoming increasingly challenging. A cultural change may be required in the way statistics are produced at national and global levels. The Bureau could undertake an in-depth review of global statistics in near future.
- The consideration of data flows and data sharing is timely also in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Leadership at the international level is needed.
- Data sharing is very important for maintaining the quality of economic statistics. International data exchange is a prerequisite for statisticians to be able to depict economic reality, profile multinational enterprises and provide data on their activities. This concerns several areas of economic statistics, such as national accounts, business and trade statistics. Strong policy demand can create favourable conditions for statisticians to be able to exchange and share economic data.
- There is an urgent need to operationalize the exchange of data between national statistical offices.
- Closer international collaboration of statisticians working with large and complex enterprises would be useful. This would facilitate identifying the large international enterprises and allow to cooperate in approaching them.
- Statistical offices need guidance on how to communicate with multinational enterprises in a way that creates trust and ensures transparency. It is important to explain clearly why data exchange is necessary, how the confidentiality is protected and that data will be used strictly for statistical purposes.
- The initiatives of the European Central Bank (ECB), Eurostat, OECD and the G20 process have accumulated experience that can provide a good basis for further developing statistics on multinational enterprises. The work of the European Banking Authority (EBA) and ECB on international financial supervision is another source of examples how to exchange data internationally.

- The review paper includes an extensive agenda for further work. The proposed actions should be prioritized based on the most urgent needs of countries. The work should take a gradual approach and lead to practical outcomes that can be achieved within a defined time.
- Future work in this area should distinguish between data exchange at national and international levels. The primary focus of the work under CES should be international data exchange. A forum for sharing experiences and general guidance recommending good practices would be beneficial for countries.
- Further work could start by developing principles for data sharing that take into account data confidentiality, respondents' trust and legal constraints. Reviewing possibilities to exchange data at different levels of aggregation could help to overcome the confidentiality restrictions.

Conclusion:

9. The Bureau recognized the importance of data exchange for maintaining the quality and relevance of economic statistics. The Bureau decided to ask a group of countries and international organizations, including those that have contributed to the in-depth review (Canada, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UNECE, UNSD and WTO) to:

- a. Identify the key work streams and priorities for future work in this area.
- b. Develop terms of reference for a Task Force in line with the outcome of the Bureau discussion.
- c. Establish a network of experts dealing with large and complex enterprises in countries to exchange best practices.

10. The in-depth review paper will be discussed also at the 2017 CES plenary session. In addition, the paper should be publicised beyond the membership of CES.

11. The Group of Experts on National Accounts and the Group of Experts on Business Registers were asked to provide a platform for discussing data exchange and related best practices in their respective domains.

12. The topics that cannot be addressed immediately, such as exchange of microdata and big data, and public-private partnerships in data exchange should be kept on the research agenda to be considered in more detail in future.

### **III. UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME FOR 2017**

#### **A. Statistical programme for 2017**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/4 by UNECE)*

13. The Bureau discussed the draft UNECE Statistical Programme for 2017 and the various steering groups and task forces created by CES and its Bureau that work on these activities. The terms of reference of the active groups are available at [www.unece.org/stats/ToS.html](http://www.unece.org/stats/ToS.html).

14. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

- It would be useful to have a simple visual presentation of the active task forces and steering groups and their expected timelines.
- The work on Consumer Price Indices (CPI) should go beyond the technical questions of CPI calculation. CPI has many policy applications which are more far reaching than its

original purpose to measure the cost of living. A conceptual study is needed to analyse what the CPI is used for, what are the interests of different user groups and how to best meet their needs (for example by developing additional measures to better serve the different purposes).

- The current UNECE work on leading, composite and sentiment indicators should focus on strategic and non-technical issues related to the role of national statistical offices in this area, not to duplicate the UNSD Handbooks on Economic Tendency Surveys and Cyclical Composite Indicators.
- The text of the Statistical Programme should reflect that the High-Level Group on the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) takes into account in its work also the standards developed outside this group, such as SDMX and DDI.

Conclusion:

15. The Bureau asked the Secretariat together with partners such as ILO, IMF and OECD to prepare a paper for the next Bureau meeting about the ongoing work and emerging developments related to CPI in view of the issues raised during the discussion.
16. The Secretariat will prepare a graphical presentation of all active task forces and steering groups.
17. The Bureau adopted the Statistical Programme for 2017 subject to reflecting the suggestions made in the discussion on individual items.

**B. Statistics for SDGs: updated road map**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/5 and 5/Add.1 by the Steering Group)*

18. The Bureau discussed the draft road map on statistics for SDGs, prepared by a dedicated CES Steering Group. Furthermore, the Terms of Reference for a *Task Force on reporting SDG indicators using national reporting platforms* were presented to the Bureau for approval.
19. The following issues were raised in the discussion:
  - SDGs are a catalyst bringing on the table many challenging issues in official statistics. The fundamental question is how to organize the data flows from a variety of producers through a proper quality assurance mechanism to a variety of users.
  - SDGs present a huge opportunity for statistical offices to strengthen their leadership and coordinating role in the national context. The Bureau supports all actions to affirm the central role of the national statistical offices in providing statistics for SDGs.
  - National ownership of data is important – there has to be a link between data released by a country and data made available by international organizations. The custodian agencies of global SDG indicators can help with developing the methodology for the indicators that are currently not available. They also have the responsibility of providing the indicators to the global SDG database and the UN Secretary General's annual report. Ground rules are needed how to deal with data that do not exist in countries.
  - The SDG monitoring at the national level should be based on national indicators taking into account national policy priorities, data needs and availability. It is not obligatory for all countries to produce the entire set of global UN SDG indicators at the national level.
  - The road map should recognise that the institutional settings and technical capabilities in countries are heterogeneous. Countries should decide on the platforms for SDG data in their country. Different mechanisms may work in different countries and may also evolve

over time. However, international guidance on the reporting mechanisms and data flows is needed as the different approaches will have to converge at the international level.

- A number of countries are developing or planning to develop national reporting platforms for data on SDGs. A Task Force could develop guidance to help in exchange of experience and developing common approaches in that.
- The mechanisms at the global and regional level are still evolving, therefore the Road Map can not yet give clear guidance on regional and global data flows.
- The situation in countries that participate in CES is heterogeneous and it is difficult to define policy priorities that would be relevant for all countries. The situation is clearer at the subregional level where the reporting will follow the subregional policy priorities and be coordinated by a relevant agency, such as Eurostat, OECD, CIS-Stat, etc.
- The Road Map is a living document that will evolve depending on decisions that will be taken, including at the policy level.
- The Road map should help countries to deal with the reporting challenge.
- The text of the Road Map can be structured more clearly, making a difference between analysis of the current situation; principles and recommendations for countries; and actions of the Steering Group.
- It is important to make progress on concrete actions. Exchange of experience has a supporting function. The main focus of the Road Map should be on the actions at national level.

#### Conclusion:

20. The Steering Group should update the Road Map taking into account the comments by the Bureau. An updated version should be presented to the 2017 February Bureau meeting. It is planned to submit the first edition of the Road Map to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement.

21. The Bureau approved the Terms of Reference of the *Task Force on reporting SDG indicators using national reporting platforms* presented in document ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/5/Add.1.

#### **C. Climate change-related statistics and implementation of SEEA: outcome of the 2016 meetings**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/6 by the Steering Group and Task Forces)*

22. The Bureau considered the outcomes of the second UNECE/OECD seminar on implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) (3-4 November 2016), the Expert Forum on climate-change related statistics (5-7 October 2016), and the progress of work of two Task Forces: on a set of key climate change-related indicators and on measuring extreme events and disasters. The Bureau discussed the following issues:

- Countries benefit greatly from forums such as the seminar on SEEA implementation and the Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics to advance methodological development, exchange experience and coordinate international work.
- The work on climate change related statistics is very timely in view of the Paris Climate Agreement which is entering into force in November 2016. The UN Statistical Commission's decision to develop a global set of climate change related statistics using the UNECE Task Force's work as a starting point is an evidence of high importance and global recognition of the CES work.

- The Bureau commended the Task Force on key climate change-related indicators on the selection of core indicators based on relevance, soundness and measurability that cover the main aspects of climate change. The final report of the Task Force should show for each indicator which SEEA module could be used as a data source.
- The term ‘headline indicators’ is not appropriate to describe a set of 39 indicators, ‘core indicators’ could be used instead.
- According to a survey carried out by the Task Force, most of the proposed indicators are available in less than 40 per cent of the countries who responded to the survey. International work will be important to support countries in developing methodologies and identifying data sources for the less mature indicators.
- The Bureau encouraged, as a next step, to extend the core set of climate change-related indicators with sub-indicators and sectoral indicators. This will also maximize the benefits of linking the set of indicators with SEEA.

Conclusion:

23. Continuation of the forums on SEEA implementation and climate change related statistics is important for advancing methodological development, exchange of experience and coordination of international work in the region. The Bureau appreciated the progress made by the Steering Group and the Task Forces in developing official statistics for climate change analysis and for the measurement of extreme events and disasters.

24. The report of the Task Force on a set of key climate change-related indicators will be submitted to the February 2017 Bureau meeting for a review, aiming to present it to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement.

**D. Waste statistics: proposal for work**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/7 by the Netherlands and UNECE)*

25. The Bureau considered a proposal for work on waste statistics based on a paper prepared by the Netherlands and UNECE Secretariat, in consultation with Armenia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Ukraine, Eurostat, OECD and UNSD. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

- Waste statistics are important in the context of many policy initiatives, such as SDGs, green economy, green growth, climate change, etc. However, the area has many conceptual and methodological challenges and progress is slow.
- A comprehensive approach and a conceptual framework are needed.
- In addition to statistical work, it is important to bring the issues to the attention of policy audience, for example through the relevant OECD and UNECE policy committees.
- Eurostat will send some written comments on the paper.

Conclusion:

26. The Bureau approved the proposal for work on waste statistics. The Secretariat, together with Canada, Mexico, Eurostat, OECD, UNSD and other interested parties will prepare terms of reference for a Task Force on Waste Statistics to be submitted to the February 2017 Bureau meeting. The issues should also be brought to the attention of the policy audience.

**E. Global production: further work**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/8 by UNECE and /9 by the Netherlands)*

27. The Bureau discussed the proposals for further work on global production from the recent meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts held on 17-20 May 2016. Furthermore, the

Bureau discussed a possible extension of the UNECE work on global production to consider the impact of globalisation on financial accounts and financial statistics in general, based on a paper by Statistics Netherlands. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

- The fast-changing activities of multinational enterprises may have a huge impact on a broad range of economic statistics, as seen in Ireland. Any country could face similar challenges.
- Work needs to be undertaken urgently to thoroughly analyse the current practices in the treatment of multinational enterprises and their impact on financial accounts and financial statistics.
- Work should take into account the outcomes of the G20 data gaps initiative, the Global Forum on International Trade Statistics and Economic Globalization, and the related work of Eurostat and OECD. An OECD working group is carrying out research on international investment in order to measure the cross-border impact of multinational enterprises.

#### Conclusion:

28. The Bureau asked a small group of countries led by the Netherlands to develop terms of reference for further work for consideration by the Bureau in 2017. The work should start by stocktaking of current international statistical initiatives dealing with the financial behaviour of multinational enterprises and global producers. The work should take account of the G20 data gaps initiative and other relevant initiatives.

#### **F. Capacity building to respond to the challenges of SDGs, geospatial statistics and modernization**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/10 by UNECE)*

29. The discussion followed up from the consideration of challenges in statistical capacity building in February 2016. At the previous meeting, the CES Bureau strongly supported the proposal to continue capacity building activities for the countries with developing statistical systems, and to organize training workshops and expert meetings for all UNECE countries to respond to new developments related to SDGs, geospatial statistics and modernization.

30. The Bureau discussed the following issues:

- Statistical capacity building needs to be coordinated both from the donor and recipient sides. Some good examples of coordinating capacity building from other regions were mentioned.
- Many different donors are offering statistical capacity building. The offer is increasing due to SDGs. This can be confusing for the recipient countries and there is a risk that statistical work is driven by the financial support provided by external stakeholders rather than national priorities.
- Recipient countries have the responsibility to coordinate the capacity building nationally to ensure that it meets their needs and takes into account the absorption capacity. Some countries are setting up national bodies (councils) for this purpose. Some guidance for countries how to coordinate the capacity building from the recipient side would be useful.
- Regional and national statistical development strategies (NSDS) can be used as tools for coordinating the capacity building activities. Many countries with developing statistical systems have NSDS available.
- It is important to focus the capacity building more on the basic statistics and statistical infrastructure than on producing individual indicators.

- A capacity building strategy for the UNECE region could be developed. The strategy should be in line with the Global Action Plan of the High-level Group on partnership, coordination and capacity-building for statistics (HLG-PCCB).
- The capacity building on SDGs should be coordinated between international organizations. The coordination works well among UNECE, Eurostat and OECD. The challenges are with other international organizations and their regional and country offices. Statistical capacity building of specialised agencies is often targeted towards ministries or other national counterparts and may bypass the statistical office. The issue should be raised in the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA).
- The statistical capacity building for SDGs is closely linked with modernizing statistical production. National statistical systems have to find efficiencies to be able to produce data on SDGs while continuing to implement the regular statistical work programme.
- The capacity building should take into account lessons learned from MDG reporting. For example, the DevInfo software was very helpful for developing countries to organize the monitoring and dissemination of MDG indicators.

Conclusion:

31. The Bureau agreed that a coordination mechanism for statistical capacity building on statistics for SDGs is needed. The Bureau encouraged the Chief Statisticians of international organizations, members of the Bureau to raise the issue at CCSA.

#### **IV. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2016 CES PLENARY SESSION**

##### **A. Evaluation of the 64th plenary session**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/11 by UNECE)*

32. The results of the evaluation questionnaires of the 2016 CES plenary session were presented for information.

##### **B. Follow-up to the 2016 CES seminar on strategic partnerships**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/12 by Canada and UNECE)*

33. The Bureau reviewed possible follow-up actions to the 2016 CES seminar on strategic partnerships. The Bureau discussed the following issues:

- The follow-up work in this area should be well focused to lead to useful practical outcomes. Further work should define well what is considered a partnership and what kind of partnerships and activities are covered. The legal, organisational and managerial problems associated with different kinds of partnerships may require different approaches.
- The Paris21 paper on public-private partnerships in big data provides good input for the follow-up actions and should be taken into account in the work.
- Sharing examples of partnerships (both successful and unsuccessful) in official statistics is important. Existing wiki platforms could be used for that purpose.
- Developing basic principles for strategic partnerships would be useful.
- Some topics for follow-up work could be:
  - (i) legal frameworks for the sharing of microdata between producers of official statistics nationally and internationally, and
  - (ii) managing the risks of partnerships with IT service providers.

Conclusion:

34. The Bureau decided to ask a group of countries, co-led by Canada and the United Kingdom, to prepare a concept note on CES follow-up work on strategic partnerships. Mexico, New Zealand, Eurostat and UNECE volunteered to be part of the group. The Bureau recommended to invite France and the Netherlands to join the group. The secretariat will contact HLG-MOS for their input. The group could undertake a survey to take stock of the legal and other issues related to strategic partnerships in official statistics. A special seminar on this topic could be organised.

**C. Follow-up to the 2016 CES seminar on geospatial services based on official statistics**  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/13 by Austria and 13/Add.1 by UNECE)

35. The Bureau discussed follow-up to the 2016 CES seminar on geospatial information and official statistics based on a proposal by Austria. Furthermore, the Bureau discussed inclusion of geospatial activities in the UNECE work programme and possible links between the geospatial and statistical activities following up from the ECOSOC resolution *Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management* (E/2016/L.28) and the discussion on this topic by the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM).

36. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

- Many activities are ongoing that integrate statistics and geospatial data, for example using population census as a pilot, extending GSBPM and CSPA to take into account geospatial data, and the Eurostat meetings that bring together the mapping agencies and statistical offices. The Eurostat meetings could possibly be opened for countries from outside EU.
- There is room for closer cooperation between the mapping agencies and statisticians to tap the unused potential for synergies, efficiencies and analysis possibilities. This gap should be urgently addressed.
- There is a need to build a global geospatial community which would involve statisticians. Statisticians and geospatial experts need to continue to pursue joint work streams in mixed expert groups. The activities should be open to all UNECE and OECD countries.
- The geospatial community should be more involved in the statistical meetings under CES. Some back-to-back sessions on geospatial statistics to the CES annual plenary sessions could be considered to be jointly organised with the GGIM-Europe.
- An intergovernmental global body, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) is established. Relevant bodies are being established in each UN region, such as UN-GGIM in Europe.

Conclusion:

37. In view of the decisions of the 2016 CES plenary session on geospatial information and statistics, the ECOSOC resolution (E/2016/L.28) and the request of EXCOM, the Bureau supports the engagement of the UNECE Secretariat with the GGIM-Europe to make a proposal for possible activities that can be undertaken jointly by CES and UN GGIM-Europe, and explore avenues of collaboration to ensure integration of geospatial and statistical information.

38. The UNECE Secretariat will prepare a proposal together with Austria, Mexico, Sweden and the GGIM-Europe for joint work to be undertaken by statisticians and the geospatial community under the Conference of European Statisticians. The proposal should include concrete activities, highlight the work being already done under CES and the link with UNECE statistical activities.

## **V. PREPARATION FOR THE 2017 CES PLENARY SESSION**

### **A. Organization of the 2017 CES seminar on measuring poverty** (*ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/14 by Israel, Mexico and UNECE*)

39. The Bureau discussed the organization of the 2017 CES seminar on measuring poverty based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizers, Israel, Mexico and UNECE. The Bureau agreed with the proposed outline of the seminar with the following additional comments:

- The seminar will build around the endorsement of the *Guide on poverty measurement* prepared by the CES Task Force on poverty statistics.
- Poverty statistics are challenging to communicate. These issues should be also discussed at the seminar. Austria is ready to contribute on that topic.
- OECD offers to contribute to session three on the way forward, in particular with its work on measuring inequalities, wealth and subjective dimensions of poverty.
- It is important to provide adequate opportunities for interventions during the seminar, as also noted in the feedback to the seminars organised at the previous CES plenary session.

#### Conclusion:

40. The seminar will take place on Monday, 19 June 2016, starting at 09:50. The endorsement of the *Guide to Measuring Poverty* will be included in the seminar. The seminar organizers will consider the possibility to shorten the time of the seminar by at least half an hour. The seminar organizers will proceed with the preparations and will present an updated proposal for the seminar to the February 2017 Bureau meeting, taking into account the recommendations by the Bureau.

### **B. Organization of the 2017 CES seminar on the next generation of statisticians and data scientists** (*ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/15 by Finland and Eurostat*)

41. The Bureau discussed the organization of the seminar based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizers, Finland and Eurostat. The Bureau agreed with the proposed outline of the seminar.

#### Conclusion:

42. The seminar will take place on Tuesday, 20 June 2016, starting at 09:30. The organizers will consider shortening the seminar by at least half an hour. The seminar organizers will proceed with the preparations and will present an updated proposal for the seminar to the February 2017 Bureau meeting.

### **C. Provisional agenda for the 2017 CES plenary session** (*ECE/CES/BUR/2016/OCT/16 by UNECE*)

43. The Bureau reviewed the provisional agenda of the CES plenary session in 2017 based on a proposal by the Secretariat. The Bureau made the following suggestions:

- The formal business part should focus on a smaller number of topics.
- The priority issues to be discussed could include the exchange and sharing of economic data, Road Map on statistics for SDGs and value of official statistics.
- Some of the CES guidelines and recommendations could be endorsed by written consultation, informing the CES about the results.

Conclusion:

44. The 65<sup>th</sup> CES plenary session will take place on 19-21 June 2017 in Geneva, back-to-back with the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy. The Secretariat will prepare an updated timetable of the 2017 CES plenary session for the February 2017 meeting of the Bureau.

**VI. CES GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENDORSEMENT**

**A. *Guide on Measuring Human Capital and proposal for further work for final approval (ECE/CES/BUR/OCT/17 and Add.1 by the Task Force)***

45. The Bureau reviewed the finalized *Guide on Measuring Human Capital*. The Bureau noted that section 2 of the Chapter 8 “Recommendations and further work” is in a different format from the rest of the Guide and advised the secretariat to review the presentation.

Conclusion:

46. The Bureau approved the finalized *Guide on Measuring Human Capital* (ECE/CES/BUR/OCT/17/Add.1), subject to reviewing the presentation of section 8.2.

47. The Bureau supported the proposals for further work, including organizing the pilot testing of the satellite accounts for education and training by a group of countries that had expressed interest, including Belarus, Israel, Norway, Russian Federation and United Kingdom. Terms of Reference for this work will be presented to the Bureau in February 2017.

48. The Bureau asked the Group of Experts on National Accounts to provide a forum to discuss the implementation of the *Guide*. The results of the pilot testing of satellite accounts for education and training will be reported to the Group of Experts on National Accounts. This could lead to the development of more detailed practical compilation guidance in future.

**B. *Report on Defining and Measuring Circular Migration for final approval (ECE/CES/BUR/OCT/18 and Add.1 by the Task Force)***

49. The Bureau reviewed the finalised report on *Defining and Measuring Circular Migration* and made the following comments:

- Circular migration is a politically sensitive topic which is difficult to track. Longer time series are needed to analyse the developments. Pilot testing of the measurement of circular migration would be useful.
- In some countries population registers are used as a data source for estimating migration. This is often problematic due to asymmetries between registering migrants and removing them from registers when they leave.

Conclusion:

50. The Bureau approved the finalized report on *Defining and Measuring Circular Migration* (document ECE/CES/BUR/OCT/18/Add.1). The Bureau asked the biennial UNECE-Eurostat Work Sessions on migration statistics to follow up on the implementation of the guidance, testing of the proposed concepts and implementing the proposals for further work. The secretariat will report to the Bureau on progress made in two years.

**C. *Recommendations on Ageing-Related Statistics and proposal for further work for final approval (ECE/CES/BUR/OCT/19 and Add.1 by the Task Force)***

51. The Bureau reviewed the finalised *Recommendations on ageing-related statistics* and made the following comments:

- The joint work of official statisticians, policy makers and researchers in one Task Force led to very good results.
- The recommendations and proposals for further work are very valuable for developing statistics on ageing. The Bureau welcomed in particular the guidance on combining data across civil surveys and the greater use of administrative data for producing statistics on ageing.
- Countries will need support in implementing the *Recommendations*.
- The follow-up work should take into account population living in institutions.

Conclusion:

52. The Bureau approved the finalized *Recommendations on ageing-related statistics* (ECE/CES/BUR/OCT/19/Add.1), and asked the Secretariat together with the current Task Force to draft terms of reference for further work to be submitted to the CES Bureau in February 2017.

## **VII. PRESENTATION BY STATISTICS CANADA**

53. Statistics Canada presented its work to the Bureau meeting, including the following points:

- The strong emphasis on evidence-based policy making and the government's focus on outcomes rather than outputs create new demands on official statistics. Users are requesting data on a growing range of complex topics with increasing granularity and faster access.
- While the willingness to participate in statistical surveys has been decreasing, the potential of non-survey data, such as administrative data and big data is increasing.
- There is a need to continue modernizing official statistics and its programs, methods, and operations.
- Many innovative approaches are being pursued and tested, for instance the use of satellite imagery for crop surveys, scanner data for price indices, crowd sourcing, web scraping, internet communication and behavioural segmentation of census population to ensure higher response rates.
- Statistical legislation is reviewed and benchmarked against the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the OECD Recommendations on Good Statistical Practice and the Generic Law on Official Statistics. Ensuring independence is very important. The legislative changes will influence the work of the statistical office, for example to facilitate access to data, data sharing and to address the topic of environment.
- Statistics Canada is active in international statistical work and in statistical capacity building (e.g. in the Caribbean region).

Conclusion:

54. The Bureau thanked Statistics Canada for the very informative presentation and tour of Statistics Canada which provided interesting examples and ideas that can be followed up in other statistical offices.

### **VIII. DATES AND VENUE OF THE NEXT CES BUREAU MEETINGS**

55. The Bureau confirmed the dates of its next meetings as follows:
- (a) The next Bureau meetings are scheduled to take place on
    - 14-15 February 2017 in Geneva;
    - 17-18 October 2017 (possibly in Yerevan, tbc);
    - 13-14 February 2018 (venue to be decided); and
    - 16-17 October 2018 (venue to be decided).
  - (b) The next CES plenary session is scheduled to be held on 19-21 June 2017 in Geneva.

### **IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

56. The Bureau co-opted Anil Arora, the Chief Statistician of Canada as a Bureau member until the elections for a new CES Bureau will be held.

57. Following the regular practice of elections every second year, the Bureau elections will take place in June 2017. All present Bureau members are eligible for re-election.

58. Furthermore, there is currently one vacant place in the Bureau. A new member to fill the vacancy could be co-opted before the February 2017 Bureau meeting.

59. The documents for the CES Bureau meeting that are final will be made available on the public website on Internet.

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