

Meeting of the 2016/2017 Bureau
Geneva, (Switzerland), 14-15 February 2017

Approved

Item III (b) of the Provisional
Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE
STEERING GROUP ON CONSUMER PRICE INDICES**

**Note by the Secretariat in consultation with Eurostat, ILO, IMF,
OECD and the World Bank**

This document presents the terms of reference for the Steering Group on Consumer Price Indices. The Bureau discussed and approved the terms of reference for the Steering Group.

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in October 2016 discussed CES work on consumer price indices (CPIs) and emerging issues in this area. The Bureau noted that CPIs today are used for a variety of purposes and policy applications. The different uses of CPI and the interests of different user groups have to be taken into account when developing CPIs, for example by compiling additional measures to better serve the different purposes that CPI is used for. The Bureau asked the Secretariat together with partners to prepare a paper for the February 2017 Bureau meeting about ongoing work and emerging developments in the area of CPIs.

2. The UNECE Secretariat is mainly involved in work on price statistics through the organization of the biennial meetings of the Expert Group on Consumer Price Indices, jointly organized with the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The Expert Group meetings provide an important forum to exchange experiences and good practices in CPI compilation and to contribute to the development of international recommendations and guidelines on CPI. The Secretariat also provides technical assistance to countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South East Europe (SEE) on CPI compilation through workshops and special sessions.

3. Document number 5 discusses the organization of CES work in the area of CPIs. The present addendum presents the terms of reference to be considered by the Bureau to establish a Steering Group to guide the work of the UNECE Secretariat on CPIs, with an initial mandate of three years.

II. MANDATE

4. The work of the Steering Group will be conducted within the CES work programme. The Steering Group will report to the Bureau on CES activities on CPIs, as well as on emerging issues in the area.

III. OBJECTIVE

5. The objective of the Steering Group is to guide the CES work on CPIs. To this end, the Steering Group should:

(a) Guide the Secretariat in the planning and organization of the biennial Expert Group meetings on CPI;

(b) Follow the development of recommendations and guidelines and their implementation, including collaborating on developing training materials etc.;

(c) Identify areas where additional work and research are needed to support countries in improving their price statistics, taking recommendations of the CES Bureau into account;

(d) Advise the Secretariat on capacity building activities to support the implementation of international recommendations and guidelines on CPIs in EECCA and SEE countries, taking the regional priorities and needs into account. Activities should be closely coordinated with regional and international partners; and

(e) Ensure consultation and coordination with the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWGPS) and other relevant groups on ongoing and planned activities in the area of CPI.

IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

6. The main activities and outputs of the Steering Group on CPIs in 2017-2020 will be the following:

(a) Review emerging issues related to CPIs in CES countries where work of the CES can provide value added;

(b) Guide the secretariat in the organization of the Expert Group meeting on CPI in May/June 2018, based on the recommendations of the 2016 CPI Expert Group meeting;

(c) Advise the Secretariat in the preparation of a regional workshop on CPI compilation for EECCA and SEE countries to take place in 2019;

(d) Propose topics for the agenda of the 2020 Expert Group meeting on CPI and guide the secretariat in the organization of the meeting;

(e) Advise the Secretariat on issues related to the updating of the CPI Manual.

V. TIMETABLE

7. The preparation of the 2018 Expert Group meeting will begin in mid-2017. The preparation of the regional workshop should begin in 2018, and the preparation of the 2020 Expert Group meeting will begin in 2019. The CES Bureau will review the outcomes of work and the terms of reference of the Steering Group in 2020.

VI. METHODS OF WORK

8. The Steering Group will primarily work via electronic means. The Group will meet face-to-face on the occasion of the biannual meetings of the CPI Group of Experts. Additional meetings may be organized at events attended by a significant number of Steering Group members, such as the meetings of the Ottawa Group on price indices.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

9. The composition of the Steering Group should reflect the different sub-regions of UNECE and ensure continuity of work. The following countries and organizations have expressed interest in joining the Group: France, Georgia, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States (BLS), Eurostat, CIS-STAT, ILO and OECD. If needed, other countries and agencies can be invited to contribute to the work of the Group.

10. UNECE acts as Secretariat of the Steering Group.

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