

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting of the 2017/2018 Bureau
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) was held in Helsinki, Finland on 14-15 February 2018, hosted by Statistics Finland. The following members of the Bureau attended: Ms. M. Bruun (Chair, Finland), Mr. S. Mnatsakanyan (Armenia), Mr. K. Pesendorfer (Austria), Mr. A. Arora (Canada), Mr. M. Kristof (Croatia), Mr. J. Santaella (Mexico) and Mr. J. Pullinger (United Kingdom). The following permanent observers also attended: Mr. A. Kosarev (CIS-STAT), Ms. M. Kotzeva (Eurostat), Mr. L. M. Ducharme (IMF), Ms. M. Durand (OECD), and Ms. L. Bratanova (UNECE).
2. The following persons assisted the members of the Bureau: Ms. C. Pereira De Sa (Eurostat). Ms. T. Luige (UNECE) served as Secretary of the meeting, backed up by Ms. A. Peltola (UNECE). Mr. S. Vale and Mr. A. Vikat of the UNECE Statistical Division also attended.
3. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) sent written comments on selected 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 social exclusion

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/2 by Canada and Mexico, Add.1 by UNDP, Add.2 by UNECE, Add.3 by Armenia)

4. The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of measuring social exclusion based on a paper by Canada and Mexico, and notes by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNECE and Armenia. The Bureau raised the following issues:
 - The definitions of social exclusion and social cohesion should be clarified. Moreover, the concepts of exclusion and inclusion are changing over time. It would be useful to define a taxonomy of the different concepts covered by social exclusion.
 - The concept of social exclusion is distinct from poverty and material deprivation. The population groups to which it pertains can sometimes be very far from each other. For example, both the very rich and the very poor can be socially excluded.
 - Measurement of social exclusion should start from a general concept and framework. It requires disentangling issues such as how to set the thresholds, whether to include subjective assessments and whether to develop a composite indicator.
 - Social exclusion strongly depends on the economic, cultural and policy context and its measurement can not be fully harmonised. The work should rather aim at collecting and systematising country experiences on measuring different aspects of social exclusion, and linking them to SDG indicators.
 - The life-course perspective is very important for measuring and understanding social exclusion. A collection of such case studies would be useful.
 - There is high demand for data in support of policies that tackle social exclusion. Many countries and OECD have inclusive growth and non-exclusiveness on their policy agenda. To be relevant, any indicators on social exclusion should address policy questions from the start. Statisticians can give policy makers the tools to better understand this phenomenon.

- Communication of social exclusion measures is challenging. Most of the communication effort goes towards explaining the concepts.
- Methodological work in this area could be taken forward under the CES Steering Group on Measuring Poverty and Inequality.
- Further work could include development of a general framework for measuring social exclusion, defining concepts for statistical measurement, collecting case studies, and developing guidance on communicating such a complex issue. It would be desirable to involve academia in the group. Further work on this topic should consider SDG monitoring needs and involve the custodian agencies responsible for the SDG indicators related to social exclusion.
- Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom and Eurostat are willing to be part of this work. OECD would decide on its participation based on the terms of reference.

Conclusion:

5. The UNECE Secretariat will prepare, together with the Steering Group on Measuring Poverty and Inequality, a proposal for follow up work to address the priority areas raised in the in-depth review for the next CES Bureau meeting.

(b) Redefining national statistical systems

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/3 by UNECE)

6. The Bureau launched the discussion on redefining national statistical systems based on a note by the Secretariat, and raised the following issues:

- The review should focus on the challenges that statistical offices are facing in light of the data revolution, and how to address those challenges.
- The review should look at what is the role and comparative advantage of official statistics in the new data ecosystem. Official statistics bring impartiality, skills, expertise and leadership in statistics, and can have wider tasks than production of statistics, such as protecting privacy, certifying quality of information from various sources, etc.
- One of the challenges is to restate the role of official statistics and its unique selling points among the many data producers. Legislation gives official statistics more strength to provide credible statistics and gives a mandate to access data, while other information providers might be biased.
- The review needs to consider how to move statistical offices to the next stages in the data revolution, including:
 - Becoming more user centric. Official statistics should reach the entire society, provide data in new ways and counter fake news.
 - Shifting from producing statistics as a good to providing services.
 - Playing a larger role in governance of data, advising the government about strategic issues related to statistics and data, providing expertise in support of developing government data hubs, etc.
 - Playing a bigger role in ensuring the quality of information used in decision-making.
 - Aligning with other legislation that influences official statistics, such as general data protection legislation. This includes the question of intellectual property and whether statistics are a strategic good.
 - Using new methods to complement traditional statistics, such as data linking, web scraping, sourcing from social media.

- Sharing and collaboration, and setting up legal structures that support new partnerships.
- Increasing numeracy and statistical literacy skills in the society.
- Offering a modern work place.
- Globalisation increases the need to collaborate across borders. This takes us further away from the focus on the national statistical system.
- Work towards defining the data community and providing recommendations for its interactions with official statistics would be useful. This would be highly relevant for defining the responsibility of NSOs in ensuring the quality of data from different sources and data providers, including from outside of official statistics, for SDGs.
- The *Generic Law on Official Statistics* and the *Guidance on Common Elements of Statistical Legislation* include definitions of official statistics and national statistical systems. Therefore, there is no need to cover these questions in the review. However, at a later stage, it will be necessary to assess the feedback from the implementation of the definitions.
- The OECD CSSP is also discussing the role of the national statistical systems in the new data ecosystem.
- The UNSC discussion on the *Handbook of Statistical Organization* may also provide input to the discussion on this topic.

Conclusion:

7. The review will focus on the role of national statistical systems in the new data ecosystem. The issue may be discussed at the CES plenary informing on in-depth reviews by the Bureau to collect more input. Further information will be collected during the CES seminars. The Bureau will carry out the in-depth review in October 2018 based on the outcomes of the OECD discussions on this topic and the CES seminars.

(c) Follow-up to the review of measuring governance (ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/4 by UNECE)

8. The Bureau discussed the progress report of the Praia Group on governance statistics, and possible follow-up work in this area under CES. The Praia Group is preparing a *Handbook on governance statistics*. The first draft is planned to be circulated for comments by October 2018, and a final one by October 2019. The Handbook should be submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in March 2020.

9. The Bureau raised the following issues:

- The in-depth review paper by Turkey, Mexico and OECD from October 2016 has been used as a reference paper at a global level.
- Governance is the most novel and difficult part of SDGs. Statistical offices should step up their work in this area. Many governance indicators are politically sensitive and official statistics can offer independent solutions. The topic is currently captured by special interest groups that are trying to sell their products.
- Although the issue is conceptually difficult, the Handbook should propose solutions to the challenging measurement issues.
- The deadlines for the contents of the Handbook are very short and call for speeding up the work.

Conclusion:

10. The UNECE secretariat will not join the Praia Group. Mexico and OECD, as members of the Praia group will try to actively push the work forward. The Bureau will follow up on the progress of Praia Group and will revert to the topic at a future meeting.

(d) Selection of topics for in-depth reviews in 2018-2019

(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/5 by UNECE)

Conclusion:

11. The following topics were selected to be discussed in-depth by the Bureau in October 2018 and February 2019, including the countries and organizations responsible for preparing the papers that will provide basis for the discussion:

- Use of satellite image data in official statistics (Canada and Mexico to co-lead with input from Austria and Eurostat, October 2018)
- Statistics and data on cities (the Netherlands to be approached to co-lead with Eurostat, input from Austria, Canada, Finland and OECD (possibly), October 2018)
- Various types of satellite accounts (Canada to lead with input from Eurostat, OECD and IMF, February 2019)
- Measurement of gender identity (Canada and the United Kingdom to co-lead with input from OECD, February 2019)

12. The Bureau will continue the discussion on the role of national statistical systems in the new data ecosystem in October 2018 based on a paper that will reflect the outcomes of various discussions at OECD, UNECE and UNSC.

13. An in-depth review of migration statistics could be considered in future after the Task Forces on data integration for measuring migration and international labour mobility finish their work.

III. UNECE STATISTICAL WORK AND CES TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

14. The Bureau was informed about the outcome of the meeting of the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) that consists of representatives of the Foreign Ministries of UNECE member countries on 11 December 2017. EXCOM approved the CES work programme for 2018-2019 and the terms of reference (TOR) for the teams of specialists under CES, including TOR for five years for the Steering Groups on statistics for SDGs, poverty, population and housing censuses, CPI, and the High-level Group for Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS).

15. A number of countries (Belarus, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Sweden, United States) and EU provided positive comments on the work of CES. The Bureau thanked the countries and organizations for briefing the representatives of their country missions to United Nations in Geneva.

(a) Population and housing censuses

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/6, 6/Add.1 by the Steering Group)

16. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work by the Steering Group on population and housing censuses in 2016-2017 and proposals for further work. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

- The Bureau expressed support to the activities of the Steering Group and its proposals for further work.
- Important issues to consider in relation to the future of censuses include the quality issues when integrating different (not only administrative) sources, impact of censuses on improving quality of administrative registers, cost effectiveness, increased frequency, and communication of the changing way censuses are carried out.
- For the CIS countries it is important to be part of the discussions on using administrative registers for population censuses allowing them to learn from the experience of countries that are well advanced in this area.

Conclusion:

17. The Bureau approved the Steering Group's proposal for work on censuses beyond 2020. The Bureau approved the terms of reference of a Task Force on measuring the quality of administrative sources for use in censuses. United Kingdom volunteered to lead the Task Force.

(b) Migration statistics

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/7 and 7/Add.1 by UNECE)

18. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work by the Steering Group and Task Forces on migration statistics and proposals for further work. The Bureau noted that the proposal for future work addresses the strong policy demand for migration statistics.

Conclusion:

19. The Bureau approved the updated terms of reference for the Steering Group on migration statistics, and considered important that the Steering Group regularly reports to the Bureau on progress of work in this area.

20. The Bureau approved the terms of reference of the Task Force on the use of longitudinal data for migration statistics. Mexico, Eurostat and OECD expressed interest to become members of the Task Force.

(c) Gender statistics

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/8 by UNECE)

21. As a follow-up to the in-depth review of gender statistics carried out in October 2017, the Bureau reviewed a proposal by the Steering Group on gender statistics to establish a Task Force on communicating gender statistics. The Bureau raised the following issues:

- The Task Force should work together with experts in other fields of statistics and in communication.

- Official statistics should carefully maintain its impartiality and should not be seen as a tool owned by lobbyists. Case studies on this issue would be useful.
- Official statistics should improve the inclusion of gender issues in all statistical areas and become more prominent in this politically sensitive area. The responsibility of statisticians goes beyond just providing data to include also explanations of why the data are important. Giving statistical visibility to the issue pushes forward the gender equality agenda.
- The Task Force should go further than the collection of best practices, keep in mind user needs, focus more on communication than on dissemination, and recommend ways of dealing with sensitivities and cultural issues. It should provide recommendations on generating value for gender statistics.

Conclusion:

22. The Bureau approved the terms of reference of the Task Force on communicating gender statistics. Canada, Finland, Mexico, United Kingdom, Eurostat and OECD expressed interest to become members of the Task Force.

(d) National accounts

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/9 by UNECE)

23. The Bureau reviewed the terms of reference for an Expert Group on national accounts as a standing body, prepared by the secretariat together with the Steering Group, and raised the following issues:

- The Bureau welcomes the conversion of the Expert Group on National Accounts into a standing body, including its work on globalization and linking it to SDGs. The Bureau notes that national accounts have a much wider role than to support the 2030 Agenda.
- A number of groups work in the area of national accounts internationally. It will be important to coordinate the methodological work under CES with the rest of the work. Therefore:
 - UNECE will continue to report regularly to the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) and the Advisory Expert Group (AEG) on National Accounts.
 - The work of the Expert Group will continue to be fully aligned with the OECD Working Party on National Accounts and the related Eurostat work.
- The CES Expert Group of on National Accounts has a wider membership than that of the OECD and EU groups, and is important for the implementation of the 2008 SNA for those countries that are not members of EU or OECD.
- The creation of the standing body will not increase current activities, nor have any cost implications for the UNECE secretariat or the members of the Expert Group.
- The Bureau agreed to add to para 3 point (c) the following: “and bring the issues to the attention of the Bureau and the ISWGNA to avoid duplication and achieve synergies. The work will be undertaken in close coordination with Eurostat, IMF and OECD.” The Bureau asked the Secretariat to delete para 3 point (d).

Conclusion:

24. The Bureau agreed with the proposed terms of reference to convert the Expert Group on National Accounts into a standing body subject to changing para 3 point c) and deleting d). The exact formulation of the new item c) was approved through a written procedure after the meeting. The Secretariat will present the terms of reference for approval to the CES plenary

session and subject to a positive outcome will submit it for approval to the UNECE Executive Committee.

(e) Exchange and sharing of economic data

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/10 by the Task Force)

25. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work by the Task Force on exchange and sharing of economic data and its plans for continuation of the work. The Bureau raised the following issues:

- In the conditions of globalisation, statistics can no longer be produced in the national context alone. Statistical authorities need to work together and exchange data internationally. It is important to share examples and statistical findings from real life cases of data exchange.
- Trust is very important for data exchange. The need for data exchange for statistical purposes should be carefully communicated to gain support, with a strong statement that any confidential data will not leave the statistical systems.
- Statisticians should engage more closely with multinational enterprises (MNEs) and demonstrate the value added of data sharing for their work.
- Legal considerations are central to this work. Official statistics have to find ways to overcome the legal obstacles and exchange data internationally without compromising privacy, and taking into account the different legal frameworks in countries. The Task Force is aiming to find solutions that would work in practice.
- Data that are publicly available should not become confidential when they enter the statistical system. This is already stipulated in the EU law.
- In addition to legal issues, there are other challenges related to access and copyright. The work on data exchange should think ahead to where things might evolve.
- The Task Force could also consider the technical aspects of microdata exchange, including use of SDMX as a potential platform.
- The work feeds directly into the G20 data gaps initiative, recommendation 20, regarding international sharing of data. There is a lot of experimentation going on between IMF, Eurostat and the European Central Bank (ECB).
- The initiative feeds also into the work of the UN Expert Group on international trade and economic globalization statistics, in particular to the work on the *Handbook on Accounting for Global Value Chains*.
- OECD can share experience from bilateral meetings of countries discussing asymmetries related to foreign trade data, and its reflection group on improving access, storage and use of confidential data for statistical purposes.
- A comment was made on point 39 (c). The developments and experience of Eurostat and ESS with the Early Warning System could be shared. However, at this stage the system cannot be integrated in a wide network of data sharing due to the need to respect the confidentiality rules.

Conclusion:

26. The Bureau congratulated the Task Force for advancing the work quickly, and noted the many consultations that have provided useful guidance to the Task Force and input to work by other bodies. The Bureau encouraged the Task Force to proceed according to its plans taking into account the comments made. The interim report of the Task Force should be presented to the CES plenary session for discussion in June 2018.

27. The Bureau agreed with the need to establish a network of experts on multinational enterprises and identify the experts from countries and international organizations for that purpose.

(f) HLG-MOS progress in 2017 and priorities for 2018

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/11 by HLG-MOS, and 11 Add.1 by Mexico)

28. The Bureau discussed the outcomes of the international collaboration projects overseen by High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) in 2017 and planned activities for 2018. The Bureau raised the following issues:

- The continuity of work is important, including having the right funding formula to support the work. A longer timeline is useful but the short time deliverables should also not be overlooked.
- It is important to define and evaluate success. Success is measured by the real use of the models by statisticians. The value of the standards under HLG-MOS is that their use allows countries to share and reuse solutions developed by other countries.
- Now when the models are endorsed and have become a global reference, the work needs to move to a second stage to implement the models, and ensure consistency between them. The models have different levels of maturity and are not easy to integrate. It is important to provide practical guidance to users how to implement the models. The Mexican paper (ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/1/Add.1) has good proposals that should be reviewed by the HLG-MOS Executive Board.
- We should also link the models with other standards outside statistics, and think strategically where are the contact points between HLG-MOS and other standardisation bodies. At the same time, HLG-MOS is not a standard setting or compliance body.
- SDMX is a relevant standard. It is an implementation standard for exchanging data and metadata which can be used to implement GSIM, which can be mentioned in the paper explicitly.
- The regular consulting of HLG-MOS with CES and its Bureau is important to make the work practical and ensure communication of the outcomes.
- Future models developed by the HLG-MOS should be also sent for large consultation with CES members prior to submitting them for endorsement by the CES, similar to the consultations on other outputs.

Conclusion:

29. The Bureau commended the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) on the outcomes achieved in 2017, and reconfirmed the plans for 2018.

(g) High-level seminar on strategic partnerships

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/12 by UNECE)

30. In October 2017, the Bureau approved the work plan on strategic partnerships, including organizing a high-level seminar in spring 2018. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work with the high-level seminar on strategic partnerships to be held on 11-12 April 2018 in Geneva, and expressed strong support for the preparations so far. Some Bureau members raised a general concern about the growing number of international meetings targeted at chief statisticians.

Conclusion:

31. The Bureau encouraged the informal group co-led by Canada and the United Kingdom, comprising Mexico, the Netherlands, Eurostat, PARIS21 and UNECE, to continue preparations for the high-level seminar on strategic partnerships according to plans.

IV. GEOSPATIAL DATA AND STATISTICS

32. The Bureau was informed about the latest developments related to geospatial data and statistics. This included the outcomes of the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Board meeting hosted by UNECE in November 2017, the decision of the UNECE Executive Committee (11 December 2017) on closer cooperation, and follow-up discussions between the UNECE Secretariat and the Chair and Secretary of UN-GGIM: Europe. The following points were raised in the discussion:

- The Bureau supports greater collaboration between the statistical and geospatial communities, and the approach followed by the Secretariat to facilitate this.
- More convergence, communication and joint activities would be beneficial.
- There are resources for this work at the global level, and in ECLAC. The need for resources within UNECE should be seriously considered.

Conclusion:

33. The Bureau commended UNECE for establishing collaboration with the UN-GGIM: Europe in response to the ECOSOC resolution (E/2016/L.28) requesting that regional commissions provide relevant support, upon request and as appropriate, to the work of the regional bodies of the UN-GGIM. The Bureau encouraged further integration of the work carried out by the statistical and geospatial communities, and called for the allocation of sufficient resources within UNECE for this work.

V. STATISTICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/13 by UNECE)

34. The Bureau reviewed the Draft *Statistical capacity development strategy*, and raised the following issues:

- It was proposed to include in the paper proposals for concrete practical steps for implementing the strategy. A good first step would be to ask countries about their priority topics for capacity development when the strategy is sent for consultation to the CES members.
- It is important that capacity development activities are demand driven. The idea of using maturity models was supported.
- Capacity development activities should be coordinated with other international organizations. The European Union is developing a new strategy for the eastern neighbourhood countries and Western Balkans. A bilateral coordination meeting between Eurostat and UNECE was proposed.
- PARIS21 is leading a global group on “Capacity Development 4.0”, and provided several comments which will be reflected in the paper and followed up bilaterally.

Conclusion:

35. The Bureau members will send any detailed comments on the paper to the Secretariat as soon as possible. The Secretariat will hold informal bilateral consultations with Eurostat and PARIS21.

36. The Secretariat will circulate the draft Statistical capacity development strategy for electronic consultation among all CES members, together with a request for information on capacity development priorities. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Strategy will be submitted the 2018 CES plenary session for endorsement.

VI. CES GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENDORSEMENT**(a) Data integration for measuring migration**

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/14 by the Task Force)

37. The Bureau reviewed the *Guidance on data integration for measuring migration*, and made the following comments:

- The Guidance was considered very useful because of the practical detail put together in one document.
- As next steps, it would be good to develop a common framework linked to the existing international standards that would help countries to assess their progress, and to group the experiences into different types based on common features. The next UNECE-Eurostat work session on migration statistics should discuss how to take this forward.
- There is a strong policy demand for migration data. Integration of different sources is one of the most promising ways of making progress in this area. It is therefore important to actively promote this work.

Conclusion:

38. The Secretariat will circulate the *Guidance on data integration for measuring migration* for electronic consultation among all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Guidance will be submitted to the 2018 CES plenary session for endorsement.

39. The next UNECE/Eurostat work session on migration statistics will discuss how to take forward the CES Bureau's proposals for further work.

(b) Measuring international labour mobility

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/15 by the Task Force)

40. The Bureau reviewed the *Guidance on measuring international labour mobility*, and made the following comments:

- The document provides a good illustration of the pertinent issues in measuring international labour mobility. It includes good recommendations but should be further elaborated. The document's title has to be reconsidered as it does not provide guidance.
- Now may be a good time to include changes in LFS to get better data on labour migration as major adjustments are already envisaged in response to the 2013 ILO Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization.

However, including non-residents in LFS is challenging, because the LFS data collection is not designed to cover rare and difficult-to-access populations, and may lead to double counting.

- Better measurement of labour mobility can be achieved by improving establishment surveys (including on temporary work agencies) and tourism statistics.
- The document would benefit from including further examples on data exchange and references to the work on data integration for measuring migration. In this respect, the Italian case study could be further elaborated and a recent exercise from Austria included.
- The Bureau recommended adding a section on further work to describe the issues that are currently not addressed in the document. Further work is needed on better utilization of statistics on establishments, social security, employment services, tourism and undocumented migrants for improving the measurement of labour mobility.

Conclusion:

41. The Task Force will revise the document based on the comments from the Bureau. The Secretariat will then circulate it for electronic consultation among all CES members. Based on the outcome of the consultation, the secretariat will decide whether to submit it to the 2018 CES plenary session for endorsement. Further work in this area is needed.

(c) Guidance on common elements of statistical legislation

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/16 by the Task Force)

42. The Bureau reviewed the *Guidance on common elements of statistical legislation*, and made the following comments:

- The common elements of statistical legislation are intended as voluntary guidance that countries may use, if they so decide.
- The Guidance provides a good reference document to help countries to modernize their legal and institutional frameworks. It is also an important authoritative reference for countries wishing to strengthen their institutional and legal framework of official statistics, and to safeguard the independent position of the Chief Statistician.
- The Guidance was not supposed to be used as a reference tool for framing peer reviews but as one of the resources that can be used in this context (the EU and OECD Peer Reviews are regulated by other frameworks). The relevant text should be corrected in the document.

Conclusion:

43. The Secretariat will update the *Guidance on common elements of statistical legislation* to reflect the discussion and will circulate it for electronic consultation among all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Guidance will be submitted to the 2018 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(d) Guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/17 and 17/Add.1 by the Task Force)

44. The Bureau reviewed the *Guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses*. The Bureau agreed with the Guidelines and supported their submission for consultation among all CES members.

Conclusion:

45. The Secretariat will circulate the *Guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses* for electronic consultation among all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Guidelines will be submitted to the 2018 CES plenary session for endorsement.

VII. PREPARATION OF THE 2018 CES PLENARY SESSION

(a) Measuring what matters – broadening official statistics

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/18 by Poland, Israel, New Zealand, Slovakia and UNECE)

46. The Bureau discussed the organization of the 2018 CES seminar on *Measuring what matters – broadening official statistics*, based on an updated outline prepared by the seminar organizers Poland, Israel, New Zealand, Slovakia and UNECE. The Bureau expressed support for the preparations so far.

Conclusion:

47. The seminar organizers will proceed with preparations according to the presented outline. The seminar will take place on Monday, 18 June 2018, starting at 09:50.

(b) Getting our message across: Strategic reflections on modernizing statistical communication *(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/19 by Albania in collaboration with Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands and UNECE)*

48. The Bureau discussed the organization of the 2018 CES seminar on *Getting our message across: Strategic reflections on modernizing statistical communication*, based on an updated outline prepared by the seminar organizers Albania, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands and UNECE. The Bureau raised the following issues:

- The seminar should show innovative examples of communication initiatives from statistical offices to consider their lessons learned and impact on users. For example, it will be interesting to know what are the lessons learned from the CBS media lab, what is its impact and how the impact is measured.
- It would be important to discuss how to put user truly at the centre, including ways to tailor communication strategies to different audiences, establish partnerships, penetrate the social media, and improve interaction by considering who are the communities that we need to address.
- The seminar should consider the human resource requirements for communication, such as the concept of new statisticians or data scientists, and the share between subject-matter and communication experts in official statistics.

- The link to the communication of census results could be considered. Census is an opportunity for improved communication as there are funds and urgency to do that. Interesting recent initiatives or plans in this regard could be shared.
- The seminar should use new technologies for improved integration, including with people outside the meeting room, such as Facebook, twitter, webcast or Skype. The secretariat will explore the feasibility of these approaches.
- The seminar should lead to concrete follow-up work that the Conference could commit to for modernising statistical communication. The seminar should bring up concrete examples and ideas on how to support statistical offices in this area.

Conclusion:

49. The seminar organizers will proceed with preparations according to the presented outline. The seminar will take place on Tuesday, 19 June 2018, starting at 09:30. The Bureau will review in October 2018 the progress achieved in the HLG-MOS project on communication and the concrete proposals for follow-up work.

(c) Draft agenda and timetable for the 2018 CES plenary session

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/20 by UNECE)

Conclusion:

50. The Bureau approved the provisional agenda and timetable for the 2018 CES plenary session, subject to the following changes: (1) the proposal to set up a standing body on national accounts will be added to the agenda; (2) time will be reserved to discuss the initial findings of the Task Force on exchange and sharing of economic data.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME 2017

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/FEB/21 by UNECE)

Conclusion:

51. The Bureau approved the report on the implementation of the UNECE Statistical Programme 2017, and thanked the UNECE Secretariat, the active member countries and partner organizations for the effective work and good results achieved. The Bureau underlined that many outcomes of the CES work are relevant at the global level.

IX. PRINCIPLES OF ROTATION OF THE MEMBERS OF IAEG-SDGS AND HLG-PCCB IN UNECE REGION

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/22 by UNECE)

52. The Bureau continued the October 2017 discussion on the criteria for rotation of the members from the UNECE region in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the High-level group on partnership, cooperation and capacity building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB).

Conclusion:

53. The Bureau approved the principles for rotation of the members of IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB from the UNECE region. The Bureau noted that the rotation of members in these groups should be done in a transparent and professional way, and acknowledged that regions may differ in terms of their conditions for such rotation. The informal comments by UNSD should be taken into account.

X. MEETING WITH MR. ERKKI LIIKANEN, THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF FINLAND

54. The CES Bureau members met with Mr. Liikanen, the Chairman of the Board (Governor) of the Bank of Finland. The meeting was held at the premises of the Bank of Finland. It focused on the excellent collaboration between the Bank of Finland and Statistics Finland over the years, and provided examples of how this successful collaboration has been achieved in practice.

XI. DATES AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS

55. The Bureau confirmed the dates and venues for its forthcoming meetings as follows:

- 15-16 October 2018 (Geneva)
- 28 February - 1 March 2019 (Washington D.C., back-to-back with the UN Statistical Commission)
- 16-17 October 2019 (venue to be confirmed)

56. The 66th CES plenary session will take place on 18-20 (a.m.) June 2018 in Geneva, back-to-back with the meeting of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (20 p.m. - 21 June 2018).

57. The 67th CES plenary session will take place on 19-21 (a.m.) June 2019 in Paris, back-to-back with the meeting of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (17-18 June 2019).

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

58. John Pullinger raised the question of how to use new technology to make better accessible and discoverable in other languages and regions the statistical guidelines, recommendations and handbooks developed under CES. The Bureau will consider this issue at its next meeting with the aim to develop some concrete recommendations.

59. All finalized papers of the CES Bureau meeting will be made available on the public web page: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47409>

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