

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting of the 2019/2020 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 16-17 October 2019

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will start at 9:30 on Wednesday, 16 October and is planned to finish around 16:30 on Thursday, 17 October 2019. The meeting will take place at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

A traditional subscription dinner will be organised on Wednesday, 16 October 2019 evening.

The meeting will be held in English only. The documents for the meeting will be uploaded on the following website: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/bureau/CES+Bureau>.

I. OPENING BY MARJO BRUUN

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

1. The CES Bureau regularly reviews in depth selected statistical areas. The aim of the reviews is to improve coordination of statistical activities in the UNECE region, identify gaps or duplication of work, and address emerging issues. The reviews often lead to new work in topical areas and tangible outputs such as guidelines or recommendations.

(a) International migration and cross-border mobility – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/2 by Mexico)

2. The in-depth review of international migration and cross-border mobility will be based on a paper by Mexico. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

(b) Measuring well-being in the era of digital society – *for discussion*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/3 by Canada)

3. The Bureau is invited to have an initial discussion on measuring well-being in the era of digital society to better delineate the area to be reviewed, based on a paper by Canada with input from United States. A full in-depth review will be carried out in February 2020.

(c) Follow-up to the in-depth review of use of satellite image data in official statistics – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/4 by UNECE)

4. The Bureau carried out an in-depth review of the use of satellite imagery and Earth observation technology in official statistics in October 2018. The Bureau decided to discuss the topic at the CES plenary session in June 2019 to obtain input from all CES members. The Conference noted the growing importance of integrating statistical and geospatial data,

particularly in the context of statistics for SDGs, and the need to improve skills and access to data to accelerate the progress.

5. The Bureau is invited to discuss possible further work under CES in this area.

(d) Follow-up to the in-depth review of various types of satellite accounts – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/5 by Canada and UNECE)

6. The Bureau carried out an in-depth review of various types of satellite accounts in February 2019. The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve a proposal for further work on developing a general guide to satellite accounting and an online inventory of published satellite accounts.

(e) Follow-up to the in-depth review of measurement of gender identity – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/6 by UNECE)

7. The Bureau carried out an in-depth review of measurement of gender identity in February 2019. The Bureau is invited to discuss a proposal for further work in this area prepared by the Secretariat.

III. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2019 CES PLENARY SESSION

(a) Evaluation of the 67th plenary session – *for information*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/7 by UNECE)

8. The results of the evaluation of the 2019 CES plenary session will be presented for information.

(b) Follow-up to the CES 2019 seminar on “New data sources – accessibility and use” – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/8 by United States and Switzerland)

9. The CES 2019 seminar on “New data sources – accessibility and use” concluded with a proposal to develop an action plan on access to data and the necessary skills. The Bureau is invited to discuss how to implement the proposed follow-up actions based on a paper prepared by an informal task team led by Switzerland and the United States.

IV. UNECE Statistical Programme

10. Under this agenda item, the draft programme of work for the UNECE Statistical Division in 2020 will be presented to the Bureau for discussion and approval. The discussion will focus on new or substantially changed activities of the work programme.

11. The work of steering groups and task forces set up by the CES Bureau is also reviewed under this agenda item. The groups are created for a particular task with concrete terms of reference, output, timeframe and a sunset clause. The work results in methodological and practical guidelines, collections of leading practices and training materials available on the web. The terms of reference of active steering groups and task forces are available at <http://www.unece.org/statistics/networks-of-experts.html>.

(a) Leading, composite and sentiment indicators (further work) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/9 by UNECE)

12. The CES 2019 plenary session endorsed the *Guidelines on producing leading, composite and sentiment indicators*. The Bureau will be invited to discuss possible further work and exchange of experience in the area of leading, composite and sentiment indicators based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

(b) Statistics for SDGs (renewal of ToR) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/10 by the Steering Group)

13. The Steering Group on SDGs was set up in 2016 to prepare a road map for developing official statistics for SDGs under CES and guide the CES members in its implementation. The Terms of Reference were planned to be reviewed in 2019.

14. The Steering Group has been regularly reporting to the Bureau and the Conference on progress by the countries and by its Task Teams developing practical tools to support the implementation of the Road Map in the areas of national reporting platforms, data flows, statistical capacity, and communication of statistics for SDGs. At the moment the Steering Group oversees three Task Teams and, following the decision of the CES 2018 plenary session, is developing the second edition of the Road Map.

15. The Bureau is invited to review and extend the terms of reference for the Steering Group.

(c) Statistics for SDGs - report on developing the UNECE regional platform – for discussion and recommendations
(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/11 by UNECE)

16. The UNECE Commission session in April 2019 requested the Secretariat to prepare an annual report on the regional progress towards SDGs based on existing statistics and data, starting from 2020. The CES 2019 plenary session supported developing a regional platform on statistics for SDGs based on a proposal by the Secretariat together with a Task Team composed of Denmark (lead), Canada, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, a knowledge hub on statistics for SDGs that will be part of the platform was considered very important. The progress with the regional platform will be also discussed by the Steering Group on statistics for SDGs at its meeting on 18-19 September 2019.

17. The Bureau will be informed about the progress of work and will be invited to provide recommendations on further steps.

(d) Measuring hazardous events and disasters (further work) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/12 by UNECE)

18. The 2019 CES plenary session endorsed the *Recommendations on the role of official statistics in measuring hazardous events and disasters* and supported continuation of the work on statistical operationalisation of measuring hazardous events and disasters, as well as on other issues for further work identified in the Recommendations.

19. The Bureau will be invited to discuss a proposal for next steps prepared by the

Secretariat.

(e) Measuring institutional population (further work) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/13 by UNECE; presentation by UNICEF)

20. The 2019 CES plenary session endorsed the *Recommendations on measuring older populations in institutions*. The Bureau will be invited to discuss how to take forward the issues for further work identified in the Recommendations based on a proposal developed by the Secretariat.

21. Furthermore, at the 2019 CES plenary session, the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) pointed out that there are information gaps about youth and children, for example children in residential care and violence against children, and called for CES to address these gaps. The UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia will be invited to present their statistical activities related to youth and children, and to explain further their proposal.

(f) Statistical programme for 2020 – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/14 by UNECE)

22. Under this agenda item, the Bureau will be invited to review and approve the Statistical Programme for 2020.

V. FUTURE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS – for discussion and recommendations
(Presentation by Canada - Chair of the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics;
ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/15 by UNECE)

23. In March 2019, the UN Statistical Commission created a Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics (chaired by Canada) to undertake an assessment on the efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of the governance of the current system of economic statistics. To achieve this, the Group was requested to conduct consultations between economists and statisticians, take stock of existing initiatives and examine possible gaps between user-identified priorities and currently planned updates to the system of economic statistics. The Group is expected to report back to the UN Statistical Commission in 2020 with a clear plan on how to move forward.

24. As a contribution to the global consultation for preparing the report to the UN Statistical Commission, the Bureau is invited to discuss the future of economic statistics guided by the questions by the Friends of the Chair group and a paper prepared by UNECE.

VI. PREPARATION OF THE CES 2020 PLENARY SESSION

(a) Organization of the 2020 CES seminar on “Impacts of globalization and digitalization on the future of economic statistics” – for discussion and recommendations

(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/16 by Canada, Finland and Norway)

25. The CES plenary session selected this topic for one of the 2020 CES seminars. The Conference decided to build the seminar (i) on the outcomes of the work of the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics; and (ii) the CES Task Force on sharing of economic data which will submit its final report to the CES 2020 plenary session.

26. The Bureau is invited to discuss the organization of the seminar based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizers, Canada, Finland and Norway.

(b) Organization of the 2020 CES seminar on “Implementing the role of NSOs in an era of expanded possibilities” – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/17 by Estonia and ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/18 by Denmark and HLG-MOS)

27. The CES plenary session selected this topic for one of the 2020 CES seminars. The Conference decided that the seminar will be a follow-up to the 2019 CES seminar on “Emerging role of NSOs as offices for statistics and data”. The Bureau will be invited to further discuss:

(a) The outcomes of the 2019 seminar on “Emerging role of NSOs as offices for statistics and data” based on a paper synthesising the experience and different approaches demonstrated at the seminar, proposals made at the Conference, and a possible action plan with issues to be taken forward. The paper will be prepared by an informal Task Team led by Estonia with inputs from the seminar organizers, Canada, New Zealand and United Kingdom;

(b) The organization of the 2020 CES seminar on “Implementing the role of NSOs in an era of expanded possibilities” based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizers, Denmark and HLG-MOS.

(c) Better measurement of the digital transformation – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/19 by Eurostat, IMF and OECD)

28. Following the Bureau’s decision at its June 2019 meeting, the Bureau is invited to discuss better measurement of digital transformation based on a paper summarizing the recent activities of Eurostat, OECD and IMF in this area.

29. The 2019 CES plenary session decided that the topic will be also included in the agenda of the 2020 CES plenary session as a standalone item (instead of being part of a CES seminar as initially proposed). The Bureau is also invited to decide how to organize the discussion on this topic at CES.

(d) CES guidelines and recommendations for endorsement in 2020: Exchange and sharing of economic data – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/20 by the Task Force)

30. The CES Bureau set up a Task Force in February 2017 to develop guidance to facilitate exchange and sharing of economic data to ensure correct measurement of global production and provide meaningful data on activities of multinational enterprises. Based on concrete examples of data exchange, the Task Force has developed guidance, tools and principles to facilitate national and international exchange of economic data by NSOs.

31. The CES Bureau will be invited to review the draft *Report on exchange and sharing of economic data* and decide if it can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Recommendations will be submitted to the 2020 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(e) CES guidelines and recommendations for endorsement in 2020: Intra-household decision-making – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/21 by the Task Force)

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

33. The CES Bureau will be invited to review the draft *recommendations on measuring intra-household power and decision-making* and decide if they can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Recommendations will be submitted to the 2020 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(f) Draft agenda and timetable for the 2020 CES plenary session – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2019/OCT/22 by UNECE)

34. The Bureau is invited to discuss the provisional agenda of the CES plenary session in 2020 based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

VII. DATES AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS – *for decision*

35. The Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venues of the next Bureau meetings and the next CES plenary sessions.

36. At its June 2019 meeting, the Bureau decided on its next meetings as follows:

- 18-19 February 2020 (venue tbc.)
- 14-15 October 2020
- 17-18 February 2021

37. The 68th CES plenary session will take place on 22-24 (a.m.) June 2020 in Geneva, back-to-back with the meeting of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (24 p.m.-25 June 2020) and the plenary session of UN-GGIM: Europe, as decided by the 66th CES plenary session (ECE/CES/95).

38. The 69th CES plenary session is proposed to take place in the week of 21-25 June 2021.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

39. Any other topics can be taken up under this agenda item.

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