I. Attendance

1. The joint UNECE/OECD/CIS-STAT Seminar on the way forward in poverty measurement was held on 2-4 December 2013 in Geneva. It was attended by participants from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Colombia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan. The European Commission was represented by Eurostat and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). The Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-Stat), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank were also represented, as well as experts from Oxford University (United Kingdom) and the University of Heidelberg (Germany). Altogether, 62 participants attended.

2. A number of participants could attend the Seminar thanks to the financial support provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the World Bank and UNECE, including support through the United Nations Development Account.

II. Organization of the Seminar

3. Ms. Blagica Novkovska, Director General of the State Statistical Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was elected as Chair of the Seminar.

4. The following substantive topics were discussed at the meeting:
   a) Methodological issues in poverty measurement
   b) Data comparability
   c) Interlinkages between poverty, inequality, vulnerability and social exclusion
   d) Future work on poverty measurement

5. The discussion was based on papers that are available on the UNECE website.\(^1\)

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III. Recommendations for future work

6. The Seminar concluded that future work at international level is needed in a number of areas. Participants emphasised the need for developing a coherent set of indicators to measure absolute and relative poverty, inequality and social exclusion in countries of the Conference of European Statisticians. Such work should also recommend common definitions and terminology in these areas, building on existing international practice.

7. Participants found that availability of documentation of data sources and computation methods has to improve and that international guidelines should address this issue.

8. The future work should provide guidelines to national statistical offices on the ways to arrive at regular and sustainable production of statistics on poverty. The work should be closely linked to the monitoring of poverty reduction in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

9. The Seminar recommended that a task force under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians could undertake this work. Participants from Chile, Colombia, Italy, Georgia, Germany, Poland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, OECD, the World Bank and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative expressed interest in contributing to this work.

10. Participants agreed that the possibility to develop guidelines for multidimensional measurement of poverty should be further explored.

11. Participants appreciated the exchange of experience and good practice among countries with different practices and challenges in poverty measurement, which took place at the Seminar. To continue this exchange, participants recommended the UNECE secretariat to organize a follow-up seminar on poverty measurement in approximately one year.

IV. Adoption of the report of the meeting

12. The present report was adopted during the closing session.

13. A summary of the discussion in the substantive sessions of the meeting will be presented in an annex to this report, to be prepared by the secretariat after the meeting.