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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Seminar on Poverty Measurement

Geneva, 12-13 July 2016

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of report

Report of the Seminar on Poverty Measurement

Note by the Secretariat

I. Attendance

1. The UNECE Seminar on Poverty Measurement was held on 12-13 July 2016 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. It was attended by participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Uzbekistan. The European Commission was represented by Eurostat and the European Union's Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-Stat), the Eurasian Economic Commission, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank were present. Experts from Oxford University (United Kingdom) participated at the invitation of the UNECE secretariat.

2. A number of participants could attend the Seminar thanks to the financial support from Russian Federation and the United Nations Development Account.

II. Organization of the meeting

3. Ms. Trudi Renwick of the United States Census Bureau was elected as Chair of the meeting.

4. The following topics were discussed at the meeting:

- a) Guide on poverty measurement
- b) Measurement challenges in consumption and income poverty
- c) Country cases in poverty measurement
- d) Comparability issues in measuring multidimensional poverty
- e) Linkages between poverty, inequality and vulnerability
- f) Communicating statistics on poverty and inequality
- g) Poverty and inequality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- h) Discussion on future work

5. The following participants acted as Discussants: for item (b) Mr Thomas Christin (Swiss Federal Statistical Office), for item (c) Mr Minh Cong Nguyen (World Bank), for item (d) Ms Elena Danilova-Cross (UNDP), for item (e) Mr Bilal Malaeb (Oxford University), for item (f) Mr Tengiz Tsekvava (National Statistics Office of Georgia), and for item (g) Ms Ala Negruta (National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova).

6. The discussion at the meeting was based on papers that are available on the UNECE website.¹

III. Recommendations for future work

7. Participants appreciated the exchange of experience and good practice at this Seminar as well as at the two previous seminars on poverty measurement organized by UNECE in 2013 and 2015, respectively. To strengthen this exchange and its link to methodological work, the meeting proposed to establish a regular forum in the form of expert meetings on measuring poverty and inequality.

8. The expert meetings will be prepared by a steering group composed of a few member countries. The Steering Group will also formulate proposals for advancing methodological work on measuring poverty and inequality, and will follow up on the implementation of methodological guidance.

9. The meeting recommended that the 2017 UNECE expert meeting on measuring poverty and inequality will be organized in April-July 2017.

10. Participants agreed that the 2017 expert meeting should address:

- a) The UNECE regional needs for the poverty and inequality indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the strengthening of the role of official statistics in this area;
- b) New methodological work following up on the issues raised in the UNECE Guide on Poverty Measurement, such as

¹ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41290#/>

- i) Comparable indexes of multidimensional poverty: indicators and data requirements
 - ii) Measurement of vulnerability to poverty
 - iii) Potential for producing individual level poverty measures
 - iv) Income and poverty measures for population outside private households
 - v) Measurement of components of income and wealth, including social transfers and own production
 - vi) Spatial patterns of poverty
 - vii) Subjective poverty;
- c) Harmonization of household surveys;
 - d) Methodological issues in measuring economic inequalities.
 - e) Gender, age and minority group disaggregation of indicators of poverty and inequality.

11. It was agreed that for the next meeting, sessions would be prepared by a designated organizer who would also be the discussant. The Steering Group will elaborate the proposal for topics for the 2017 expert meeting and will ask for volunteers to organize the sessions.

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 the annex of this report, to be prepared by the Secretariat after the meeting.
