

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
STATISTICIANS**

Joint UNECE/ILO Meeting on Consumer Price Indices,
Geneva, 10–12 May 2006

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

I. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

1. One of the main objectives of the Joint UNECE/ILO Meeting on Consumer Price Indices is to serve as a forum for discussion of both conceptual and practical aspects of the compilation of price indices. By presentation and discussion of papers and exchange of experiences the meeting shall support the development of CPIs, implementation of internationally accepted standards and methods and improvements in practices.

2. The meeting in May 2006 will address such substantive topics as systems or families of price indices; concepts and measurements; structured product descriptions, and core inflation measurement. The meeting will also discuss the CPI Manual and future work. A special session will be reserved for CPI measurement problems in emerging economies. This may be of particular interest to CIS and other emerging countries.

II. DRAFT PROGRAM OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 10 May 2006 at 10:00 a.m. The room number will be communicated to you as soon as possible. The meeting will discuss a number of substantive topics in the following areas:

- Systems of price indices
 - *Families of indices for different purposes; the CPI in relation to PPI; the CPI in National Accounts view.*
- Concepts and measurement
 - *National Statistical Offices experience from implementation of different CPI concepts; from purpose to ideal measure to the regular compilation of the CPI.*
- Structured product descriptions
 - *What is Structured product descriptions?; classification and aggregation; use in relation to quality adjustments, and links between CPIs and PPPs?*
- The CPI Manual
 - *Information about the manual; the current experiences and feed-back from users; how to develop the Manual in the future.*

- CPI measurement problems in emerging economies
 - *Reports on particular problems and experiences from emerging economies, for instance in relation to rapidly changing markets, the hidden economy, own production for own consumption or transactions between households.*
- Future work

4. In addition to the substantive topics the ILO, the Ottawa Group, IMF, Eurostat and UNECE will also provide reports on activities and events.

III. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

5. The sessions will be introduced by a discussant after which the authors of invited papers will have the opportunity to present their papers and to answer any questions. Some of the supporting papers may be presented also. A general discussion will follow, and the discussant will summarize and conclude the session.

IV. WORKING LANGUAGES AND DOCUMENTATION

6. The working languages of the meeting are English, French and Russian. English/French/Russian interpretation will be available.

7. The invited papers will be sent for translation into the three working UNECE languages: English, French and Russian. In order to ensure the translation they should reach the UNECE Secretariat in electronic form by **15 February 2006**, at the latest. Contributing papers should reach the UNECE Secretariat not later than **31 March 2006**, as they will be distributed in their original language only.

8. Both invited and supporting papers should be sent in electronic form (preferably as a Word document) to Mr. Carsten Boldsen Hansen at e-mail: carsten.hansen@unece.org.

9. All the documentation for the meeting will be available at the UNECE web site at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.05.cpi.htm>. The French and Russian versions will be posted on the web page as soon as the translation is completed. Delegates are encouraged to download the documents from the website and bring their own copies to the meeting.

V. PARTICIPATION, VISA REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRATION

10. In accordance with standard UNECE practice, national statistical offices in the UNECE region are invited to send their experts. Furthermore, OECD member states and other United Nations member states are also invited to participate. Also a number of international organisations, e.g. UN, OECD, Eurostat, IMF and the World Bank are invited. All participants must be accredited by the competent authorities of their country or international organisation.

11. All participants attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of Switzerland in the country in which the participants reside, with a reference to the Joint UNECE/ILO Meeting on

Consumer Price Indices. If necessary, the UNECE secretariat can provide a letter to facilitate obtaining a visa. This can be requested from the UNECE secretariat (e-mail: linette.blanchandin@unece.org; tel.: +4122 917 1272, fax: +4122 917 0040).

12. Representatives from national statistical offices and other government bodies as well as from international organizations, who wish to participate, should print and complete the Conference Registration form available as Annex II to the present note. Registration forms should be sent by fax or e-mail to Mrs. Linette Blanchandin (e-mail: linette.blanchandin@unece.org; fax: +4122 917 00 40) by **14 April 2006**, at the latest.

13. The information will be used to register participants with the UN Security Section and to obtain ID badges from Security offices. If you will be accompanied by your spouse, please complete a separate registration form for her/him.

VI. ACCOMMODATION IN GENEVA

14. **Participants are requested to make their own travel and hotel reservations.** The UNECE Secretariat in Geneva is not in a position to provide such services to delegates. Participants are advised to book hotel accommodation well in advance of the meeting, because hotels in Geneva are often fully booked in coincidence with large conferences or other events. In order to assist participants in organizing their accommodation, the UNECE secretariat provides a list of hotels on its website (<http://www.unece.org/stats/geneva.e.htm>). If difficulties are encountered, participants may contact their Permanent Mission in Geneva for assistance.

VII. SECURITY MEASURES AND ACCESS TO THE VENUE

15. In order to enter the Palais des Nations, where the meeting will be held, all participants need to obtain a security pass (ID badge). For this purpose, please present yourself with your passport and the original of the Conference Registration form at the Villa Les Feuillantines or Porte de Pregny (information will be provided later; see the map on Annex I) by 8:30 a.m. at the latest on the first day of the meeting. The Security Identification Office is open Monday to Friday from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (non-stop). For identification and security reasons, delegates are requested to wear their security badges at all times while inside the Palais des Nations. Please also note that, due to new security procedures in place in the Palais des Nations, we advise delegates not to bring large luggage (e.g. suitcases) to the Palais. Such luggage is not permitted into the building, and there is only limited storage space for it at the Pregny entrance.

16. There are two gates that can be used by participants to enter the UN premises (see the map on Annex I): the pedestrian passage at Place des Nations (tram 13, buses 5 and 8, stop Nations) and the Pregny Gate (Avenue de la Paix 14, buses 8 and 18, stop Appia).

VIII. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDANCE

17. All queries concerning the meeting should be addressed to:

Mr. Carsten Boldsen Hansen
Economic Statistics Section
UNECE Statistical Division,
Palais des Nations
CH 1211 GENEVA 10
SWITZERLAND

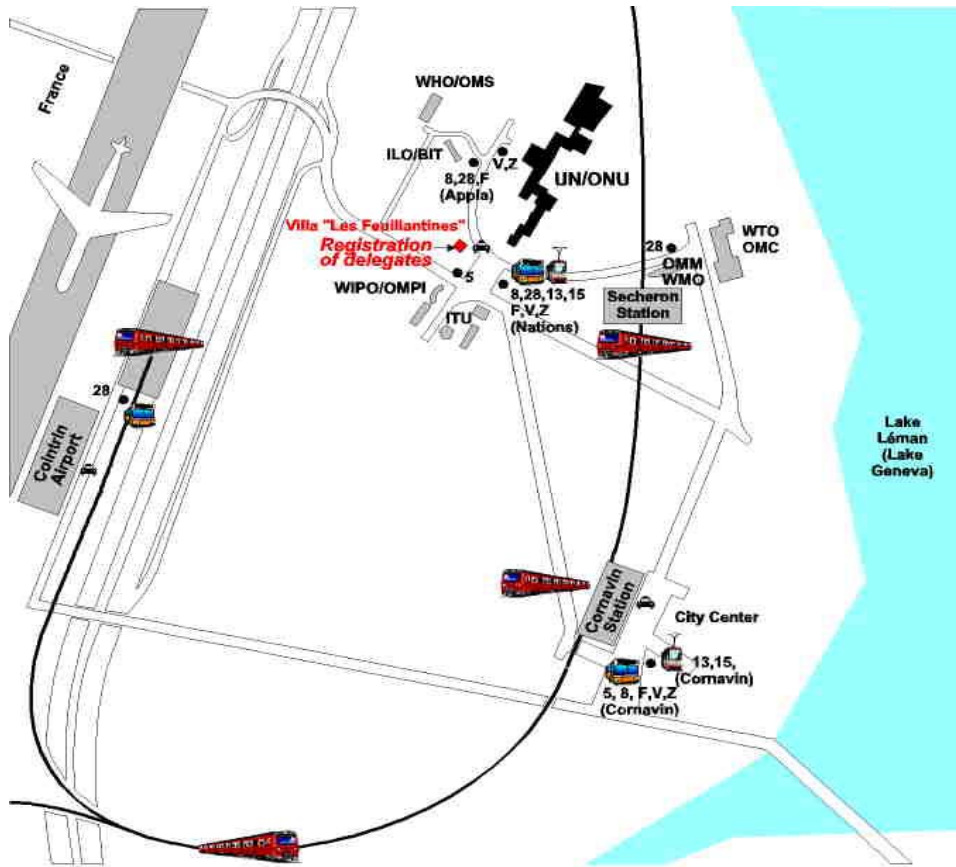
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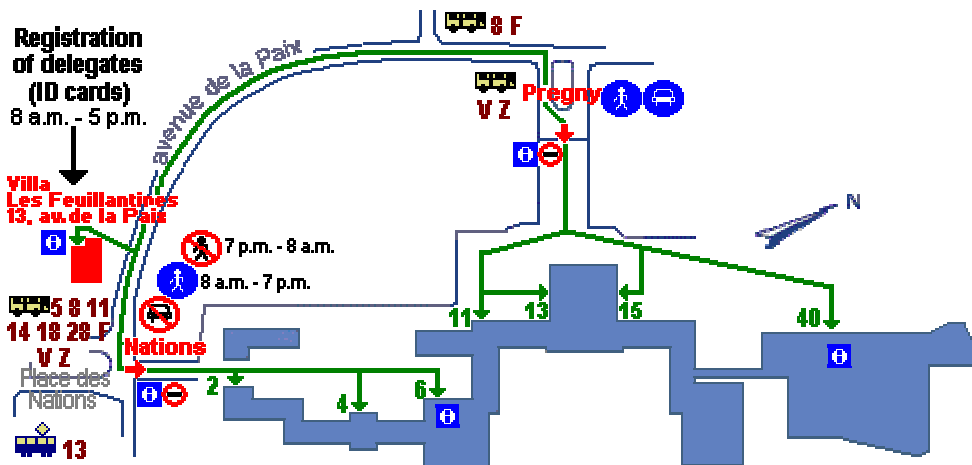
ANNEX I
MAPS

How to find the UN building in Geneva:



* Estimated travel time from Airport to UN around 30 minutes
 Most convenient public transport stops to arrive to the UN are:
 Delegates registration (Villa "Les Feuillantines"): Nations
 Delegates with badges and authorised persons: Nations (Nations gate)
 Appia Pregny gate)
 Sécheron (Chemin-de-fer gate)
 Visitors entrance (Pregny gate): Appia

Where to obtain the entry pass (Security Identification Office, Villa les Feuillantines, 13 avenue de la Paix):



Entry for delegates with valid ground pass: "Place des Nations gate" and "Pregny gate".

Entry for visitors: "Pregny gate" only.

Note: a valid passport or photo ID is needed to obtain the ground pass and to gain the entry to the UN premises.



ANNEX II.
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA
Conference Registration

Please Print

Date

Please print this form, complete it and fax it to the UNECE Secretariat (+41-22-917 00 40).
 Please BRING THIS ORIGINAL with you to Geneva. An additional form is required for spouses.

Title and dates of the meeting:

Joint UNECE/ILO Meeting on Consumer Price Indices (Geneva, 10-12 May 2006)

Delegation of Country, Organisation or Agency:

Participant

Family Name

First Name

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms

Date Of Birth

 / /

(DD/MM/YYYY)

Participation Category

Head of Delegation Member

Observer Organisation

Participating From / Until

Delegation Member

NGO (ECOSOC Acc

From

Observer Country

Other (Please specify

Until

Do you have a badge issued as a Mission diplomat or employee, NGO card issued in Geneva or a Long Duration conference badge issued at Geneva? If so, PLEASE TICK HERE

Origin of Identity Document

Passport or ID Number

Valid Until

Official Telephone No.

Fax No.

Official Occupation

Permanent Official Address

Address in Geneva

Email Address

On Issue of ID Card

Participant Signature

Date

Security Use Only

Card N°. Issued

Initials, UN Official