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STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Forty-third plenary session  
(Geneva, 12-15 June 1995)

PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL  
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 1995/96 AND 1996/97:  
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION

**SUB-PROGRAMME 1  
ORGANISATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES**

The format of this integrated presentation

1. This is intended to be a fully integrated presentation of international work programmes in the ECE region. That is to say it includes not only the statistical work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), but also the relevant statistical work carried out in the ECE region by the Commission of the European Communities, OECD, the UN Statistical Division (UNSD), ILO, WHO, IMF, the World Trade Organization (ex GATT), the World Bank, The Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS STAT) and many other agencies. The programmes are presented in six separate documents - one for each domain in the Conference's programme of work - as follows:

- Sub-programme 1: Organization and Operation of statistical services  
(CES/1995/R.25/Add.1)
- Sub-programme 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues  
(CES/1995/R.25/Add.2)
- Sub-programme 3: Economic statistics (CES/1995/R.25/Add.3)
- Sub-programme 4: Social and demographic statistics (CES/1995/R.25/Add.4)
- Sub-programme 5: Natural resources and environment statistics  
(CES/1995/R.25/Add.5)

Sub-programme 6: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities  
(CES/1995/R.25/Add.6)

2. The integrated presentation is prepared annually, according to the following timetable:

i) December-February : The ECE secretariat obtains information from the other organizations on their programmes of work and prepares a first draft of the integrated presentation for review by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians at its February meeting of each year.

ii) March-June : The integrated presentation is updated and amended to include the Bureau's recommended decisions to the Conference in each field of statistics, and it is presented in draft form for review by the Conference at its annual meeting in June.

iii) July-August : The integrated presentation is amended to reflect the decisions taken by the Conference at its June meeting concerning its own work programme, and it is issued in its final form for the forthcoming two-year period.

3. Thus, the material presented in the six documents referred to above has been amended to reflect decisions taken by the Conference at its June 1995 plenary session. The Conference approved the parts of the integrated presentation that comprise its own work programme. It also offered suggestions and advice on planned future work in the parts of the integrated presentation that are the responsibility of other international organizations.

4. Each sub-programme is sub-divided into a number of programme elements, and each programme element is described within the following framework:

OBJECTIVES OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS: Broad aims of national statistical offices for international work in that field over the next several years.

EXPECTED COLLECTIVE OUTPUT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Specific outputs expected by countries in the next two years.

ISSUES TO WHICH THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE IS DRAWN: List of issues in each field of statistics that the Bureau of the Conference brought to the attention of the Conference at its plenary session.

DECISIONS BY THE CONFERENCE AT THE 1995 PLENARY SESSION: List of

decisions on its programme of work taken by the Conference at the plenary session.

MEETINGS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Sponsoring agency, title, date.

RAPPORTEUR/FOCAL POINT: International organization that the Conference has recommended be assigned responsibility for monitoring on behalf of the Conference progress towards the objectives and outputs specified for a programme element.

ACTIVITIES AND MEANS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Description of the major activities of agencies in that field in the coming two years. Information is also given in this section on ECE resource implications for the work to be carried out by the ECE secretariat (the resource implications are classified as follows: minimal (less than 3 work months; moderate (3-6 work months); and substantial (over 6 work months)), and on priority ratings for the Conference's own programme of work (which are labelled "Priority A", "B" or "C" - Priority A indicates work to be undertaken by the Conference in 1995/96; Priority B means work is planned for 1996/97 but not for 1995/96; Priority C indicates work is not planned to be undertaken by the Conference in that field during the next two years).

#### Priority menus and lists of meetings

5. The "priority menu" summarizing the major types of activities the Conference plans to work on during the next two years in all projects in the sub-programme is given at the end of this addendum, together with a consolidated list of meetings that the ECE, Eurostat and the OECD plan to organize under this sub-programme in the next two years.

#### List of programme elements in the programme of work of the Conference

6. The list of programme elements in the whole programme of work of the Conference is given in Table 1, together with an indication of the document in which information for that programme element can be found.

#### Other related information

7. As the integrated presentation is being presented in the same format in six separate documents, this explanatory note on the new format of the presentation is being reproduced in each of the documents. A separate short document (CES/1995/R.25) describes the background to the development of the format used here and provides additional information including an explanation of acronyms used.



**Table 1. List of programme elements in the programme of work of the Conference (together with an indication of the document in which information for that programme element can be found)**

Sub-programme	Programme element
<u>Sub-programme 1</u> : Organization and Operation of statistical services (See document <b>CES/1995/R.25/Add.1</b> )	1.1 Issues of statistical policy 1.2 Transition countries 1.3 Promotion and coordination of international statistical work 1.4 Technical assistance to developing countries
<u>Sub-programme 2</u> : Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (See document <b>CES/1995/R.25/Add.2</b> )	2.1 Management of statistical information technology 2.2 Statistical data collection and processing 2.3 Dissemination and interchange of statistical information 2.4 Industry, commodity and occupation classifications 2.5 Statistical methodology 2.6 Geography 2.7 Regional statistics 2.8 Training

Sub-programme	Programme element
<u>b-programme 3</u> : Economic statistics (See document <b>CES/1995/R.25/Add.3</b> )	3.1 Implementation of the system of national accounts 3.2 Money and banking, government finance, and balance of payments 3.3 International trade in goods 3.4 Transport 3.5 Distributive trades 3.6 International trade in services 3.7 Tourism 3.8 Other marketed services, and non-marketed services 3.9 Price statistics, including purchasing power parities 3.10 Agricultural statistics 3.11 Industrial statistics 3.12 Energy statistics 3.13 Science and technology statistics 3.14 Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics 3.XX Other work in the field of economic statistics
<u>Sub-programme 4</u> : Social and demographic statistics (See document <b>CES/1995/R.25/Add.4</b> )	4.1 Social indicators and frameworks 4.2 Gender statistics 4.3 Multi-purpose social surveys 4.4 Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics 4.5 Population and housing censuses 4.6 Health statistics 4.7 Crime and criminal justice statistics 4.8 Education and training statistics 4.9 Culture statistics 4.10 Labour statistics 4.11 Demographic statistics (including projections, migration and fertility) 4.12 Human settlements and housing statistics 4.13 Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income inequality 4.14 Statistics on population groups of special interest 4.XX Other work in the field of social and demographic statistics
<u>Sub-programme 5</u> : Natural resources and environment statistics (See document <b>CES/1995/R.25/Add.5</b> )	5.1 Standards and frameworks for environmental data and indicators 5.2 Natural resources and environmental accounting 5.3 Environmental database development and dissemination

<b>Sub-programme</b>	<b>Programme element</b>
<u>Sub-programme 6</u> : Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (See document <b>CES/1995/R.25/Add.6</b> )	6.1 Dissemination of statistical data by the secretariats 6.2 Statistical support for other activities of the secretariats

**SUB-PROGRAMME 1**  
**ORGANISATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES**

**1.1 ISSUES OF STATISTICAL POLICY**

**Objectives over the next several years:** To enable heads of national statistical agencies to exchange views and experiences on matters affecting the organization, management and relations with the outside world of the institutions of which they are in charge; to formulate priorities for the development of international statistical standards and methods and to promote their use; to enable heads of agencies in countries in transition to assimilate and adapt policies and techniques related to the management of national statistical agencies successfully used elsewhere; to enable heads of statistical agencies to exchange views and experiences on changing statistical requirements that are creating pressures for the reform of statistical policies and institutions. Consideration of issues such as the development strategy of national statistical offices, the overall design and conception of official statistics and professional ethics in statistics.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** Decisions and guidance on international statistical work programmes. Proceedings of meetings of Heads of Agencies. Minutes of the major Bureau meetings to be available at the plenary session as room documents. Monitoring the application of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

- The Bureau's recommendation to hold the 1996 plenary session of the Conference in Paris, at the invitation of the OECD.
- The approaching (September 1996) Lisbon CES seminar for heads of statistical offices, and the need for papers to be contributed by countries for the topics to be considered at it.
- The fact that work on pricing policies of publications etc. and on new types of partnership relationships between NSOs and the private sector is a gap in work underway at present at the international level.

**Decisions by the Conference at the 1995 plenary session:** The Conference agreed

- To select the topic "Labour market dynamics: New statistical and analytical approaches" as the topic of substantive discussion for the 1996 plenary session.
- To call upon interested NSOs to prepare papers as a contribution to the September 1996 Lisbon seminar for heads of statistical offices.
- To include the Lisbon seminar for heads of statistical offices in the Conference's meeting programme for 1996/97. (The Conference appointed the following persons to serve on the Programme Committee: Messrs. De Vries (Netherlands - Chairman), De Oliveira (Portugal), Ryten (Canada), Franchet (Eurostat) and Griffin (ECE)).
- To hold the 1996 plenary session of the Conference in Paris, at the

- invitation of the OECD.
- To approve the other planned activities of the Conference in this programme element.

**Meetings in the next two years:**

- ECE: Annual plenary session of the Conference (June of each year) (1996, in Paris; 1997, in Geneva)
- ECE: Four meetings of the Bureau of the Conference, annually
- ECE: CES seminar for heads of statistical offices (25-27 September 1996, Portugal)
- EUROSTAT: SPC-DGINS meetings - 4 per year
- EUROSTAT: CEIES - 1 plenary, 6 sub-committee, 2 bureau meetings per year
- UNSD: Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, eighteenth session (Geneva, 7-11 November 1995)
- UNSD: ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, twenty-ninth session (Geneva, 3 days between 16 and 21 June 1995)
- CIS STAT: Working group on statistical standards and methods (October each year)

**Rapporteur/focal point:** (to be designated at the 1996 plenary session)

**Activities and means in the next two years:**

**Activities of ECE:** (CES Priority A)

- a) Annual meeting of the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians
- b) Regular meetings of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians, acting in its capacity as the Steering Committee of the Conference.
- c) Consideration at the forty-fourth (1996) plenary session of "Labour market dynamics: new statistical and analytical approaches".
- d) Preparation of a summary of country reports on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics for presentation to the Conference (timing to be determined by the CES Bureau).
- e) Convening of a seminar on "Official statistics: Past and future" for heads of statistical offices in 1996 (Lisbon, Portugal) with five sessions: (i) Reconstructing the past; (ii) Regions, states and federations - problems of variable geography; (iii) Statistician - A profession?; (iv) Conflicts between innovation and continuity; and (v) Our legacy to future generations.

Secretariat resources: Substantial.

**Activities of OECD:**

**Activities of Eurostat:** (Theme 02: Statistical programme and planning)

Apart from the introduction of new member states to the 1993-1997 statistical programme and to the European Union, yearly statistical planning and programming activity is centred on the following actions: preparation of the 1998 - 2002 European Union statistical programme; elaboration of the 1996 work programme, taking into account political, financial as well as respondents burden and cost-benefits aspects; and organisation of meetings, committees, SPC and DGINS as well as joint SPC/EEA meetings; preparation and management of the working party on the annual statistical programme and of the cost-benefit task force meetings, of a CEIES meeting including sub-committees meetings and bureau meetings. Organisation of CDIS meetings. Programming missions with Member States (4-5/year). Evaluation of the implementation of the 1993-1997 framework programme for the 1994-1995 period will take place. Preparation of the 1993-1995 evaluation report.

Eurostat is currently undertaking a Corporate Planning exercise.

The draft regulation on European statistical legislation is being discussed by the Council and the European Parliament. This procedure will be supplemented by the preparation of a Commission Decision on the role of Eurostat in the Commission.

**Activities of other organizations:**

UN Statistical Division (UNSD) : Activities will be focused on the coordination of the global statistical system and provision of services to national statistical authorities, making use of continuing instruments of coordination such as the Statistical Commission, its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, inter-secretariat working groups and task forces in selected statistical fields, ongoing consultations and exchange of information and plans, as well as ad hoc consultations and meetings on subjects and issues of current concern. (see also project 1.3).

Council of Europe : The Council has a "Project Group on Data Protection" (formerly the Committee of Experts on Data Protection) which consists of senior officials from the Ministries concerned in the member States. The Project Group met most recently in October of 1994, and over the years it has identified and discussed numerous problems raised by the protection of personal data in a number of sectors. It has also identified the main principles to be respected in each of these sectors for the adequate safeguarding of privacy.

At present, work is underway on the preparation of a draft recommendation on the protection of personal data collected and processed for statistical purposes. The draft is being elaborated by a Working Party composed of experts (lawyers and statisticians) designated by governments. A limited number of Observers (including Eurostat) participate in the meetings of the Working Party. As of April 1995 the draft was still being negotiated and had not yet been made public. The future Recommendation would apply to the automatic processing of data for statistical purposes, to the automatic collection of such data and to the manual collection of data with a view to automatic processing. The future Recommendation is also expected to deal with issues such as: respect for privacy; conditions of lawful processing for statistical purposes; information to be conveyed to data subjects; consent of data subjects; rights of access and rectification; conservation of data; publication of data; security of personal data; and communication of personal data to third parties.

## 1.2 TRANSITION COUNTRIES

**Objectives over the next several years:** To assist statistical agencies of countries in transition to produce statistics appropriate to their changing circumstances; to help statistical agencies in transition economies promote the fundamental values adopted by Heads of agencies of ECE Member countries; to promote technical cooperation with agencies in countries in transition so that it respects basic priorities and minimizes duplication; to act as an advocate for countries in transition so that international standards and methods are suitable for their use; to encourage efficient and co-ordinated delivery of assistance to countries in transition.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** Detailed and comprehensive inventories of projects of technical cooperation; occasional meetings designed to evaluate the results of cooperation projects; bulletins designed to give a wide circulation to best practices (or most successful cooperation projects). ( Note: See also programme element 3.9 (in document CES/1995/R.25/Add.3) for additional information on work in the fields of the International Comparison Programme and the European Comparison Programme that is directed towards transition countries.)

### **Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

- The new UNDP-financed project in the Conference's programme of work, which is being executed by the ECE Statistical Division and is aimed at assisting transition countries to further develop their social and demographic statistics.
- The outcome of the Eurostat meeting on administrative records in transition countries held in February 1995.

**Decisions by the Conference at the 1995 plenary session:** The Conference agreed

- To approve the planned activities of the Conference in this project, particularly concerning the assistance the ECE secretariat will be offering transition countries through the services of its Regional Adviser on Statistics and its new UNDP-financed project.

**Meetings in the next two years:**

OECD: Meeting of Donors and Recipients of technical assistance in national accounts (last half 1995)

CIS STAT: Working group on computerization of statistics (1-2 meetings every year)

EUROSTAT: Working group concerning FSU countries (15-17 November 1995)

**Rapporteur/focal point:** (to be designated at the 1996 plenary session)

**Activities and means in the next two years:**

**Activities of ECE:** (CES Priority A)

- a) Structuring all sub-programmes and plenary sessions of the Conference to reflect priority concerns of countries in transition.
- b) Provide assistance and guidance to countries in transition, through services provided to these countries by the ECE Regional Adviser on Statistics
- c) Participation in inter-agency collaborative efforts aimed at assisting countries in transition
- d) The ECE secretariat is the executing agency of a three-year (1995-1997) UNDP-financed regional project whose aim is to increase the capacity of NSOs of transition countries to produce reliable, timely and policy-relevant social and demographic statistics. The secretariat is responsible for managing and implementing the project. Work in the project is focussed on the following five priority areas: (i) assisting newly-independent states and other interested transition countries to plan and organize their next (2000 round) population census; (ii) assisting them in making much better use of administrative data in the areas of vital statistics, health, education and other fields of statistics; (iii) assisting them to develop an improved capacity for conducting household surveys; (iv) assisting them to develop an improved infrastructure in the field of Information Technology; and (v) assisting them to produce in the near future national statistical compendia which will bring together as much relevant social and demographic data as is available.

Secretariat resources: Substantial .

**Activities of OECD:** Cooperates with ECE on data collection from CIT's, making short-term data available to ECE. Participates actively in the Steering Committee to coordinate Technical Assistance in statistics to former Soviet Union countries (Ripert Committee). More detailed information on OECD activities in the area of economic statistics is given in sub-programme 3.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (Theme 90: Cooperation with central and eastern European countries)

For the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (PHARE programme), Eurostat is responsible for international coordination of multilateral and bilateral programmes on all areas of the statistical system which are run by the EU, EEA-EFTA countries, other members of G24 and international organisations. The signature of statistical co-operation agreements marked a new direction in cooperation with these countries and with the Baltic states. These agreements, in terms which remain to be finalised, provide for increasing integration with the European Union. Each country will programme its own strategy for the adoption of the Community Statistical System; 1995 is the first year of implementation of these programmes.

The European Council, meeting in Essen in December 1994, confirmed the proposed accession to the EU of the associated partner countries from Eastern and Central Europe, if they so desire, as soon as each country is able to assume the obligations of membership by satisfying the economic and political conditions as set out in the conclusions of the meeting of the European Council in June 1993. A "structured relationship" has been established between these countries and the EU institutions in order that the countries can play a positive role in discussions on matters of common interest. Eurostat's programme will take account of these developments.

The Steering Committee on the coordination of technical assistance to the New Independent States (TACIS programme) has assigned Eurostat the role of "focal point" for international coordination of business registers and business statistics and external trade statistics. TACIS statistical co-operation programmes cover the areas for which Eurostat is the focal point, plus other subjects on which tight co-ordination with the respective focal point organisations is necessary. After an exploratory phase, a planning phase and a first training campaign, 1995 is the year operational cooperation projects begin. Project teams from the Union will be twinned with those from the New Independent States.

**Activities of the Steering Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the former Soviet Union:**

The objectives of the Steering Committee are to improve the coordination of ongoing and planned technical assistance in statistics to FSU countries.

The Steering Committee provides a forum by which international organizations can meet on a regular basis to coordinate their technical assistance plans regarding the FSU countries and share experiences. For this purpose, member organizations are assigned as focal points for the coordination of technical assistance in areas of their concern and expertise, and a database has been established, subsidiary to the OECD's SCCT Register, to facilitate the coordination of their activities as well as, to the extent possible, the programs of bilateral donors. On-line access to the database is available to MEMBER OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND TO major bilateral donors. Membership of the Steering Committee comprises the statistical offices/departments of the UN, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, EU, OECD, ILO, IMF, FAO, and the World Bank. Secretariat facilities for the Steering Committee are provided by the IMF.

The Steering Committee is currently planning to hold a meeting of donors and recipients, jointly with Goskomstat Russia, on technical assistance in statistics to the Russian Federation.

The Steering Committee meets two to three times a year and a similar number of meetings are now being arranged jointly by members of the Steering Committee to coordinate their programs in areas of common concern (such as national accounts statistics).

#### **Activities of other organizations:**

UN Statistical Division (UNSD) : (a) adjustment of UNSD's and ECE relevant methodological work in their fields of activity, such as national accounts, international statistical classifications, price statistics, demographic and vital statistics and environmental statistics, to take into account the needs of transition countries; (b) finalization of a Handbook on SNA for Transition Economies, which will provide guidance to countries in transition in the implementation of the 1993 SNA; (c) providing consultancy services in demographic data collection and data analysis in selected transition countries in the Asian region (in cooperation with UNFPA); (d) providing substantive support to countries in transition in the field of environmental and natural resources accounting.

The ILO : ILO will continue its action aimed at assisting transition countries to produce reliable and consistent labour statistics for policy making and information needs. This will be done by means of direct short-term technical cooperation and training. The ILO will also continue to be a member of the Steering Committee on the Coordination of technical assistance to countries of FSU. (It is too early to define the meetings that the ILO will hold up to 1996).

International Monetary Fund (IMF) : The IMF's technical assistance program in transition countries comprises all areas of macroeconomic statistics as well as systemic advice on the organization of statistics to meet the greatly changed demand for macroeconomic statistics. The means comprise two to three week on-site missions, national and regional seminars, workshops, and

training courses at the Joint Vienna Institute and the IMF Institute in Washington. In addition, four resident statistical advisors have been appointed to transition countries (one for the Baltic republics, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine). The program covers balance of payments, government finance, and money and banking statistics, and furthermore, prices, external trade, and national accounts statistics. The work on price statistics has focused mainly on the compilation of consumer price indices and, more recently, the development of producer price indices.

Funding for technical assistance is provided by the IMF's own resources and from outside sources, in particular the UNDP and the Japan Administered Account, a special facility that is financed by the government of Japan, to support technical assistance in IMF member countries.

### 1.3 PROMOTION AND COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK (CES Priority A)

**Objectives over the next several years:** To ensure minimal duplication in data collection from member countries; to ensure the consistency of published data; to promote coherence in the agenda of statistical committees, working parties, task forces and groups so that international exchanges of views are mutually reinforcing; and to promote the adoption of unified work programmes with a consistent view of priorities.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** Periodic agreements and protocols with wide dissemination on unified questionnaires, single data bases, work programmes and meeting agenda. Submission to such fora as the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians and the UN Statistical Commission of integrated work programmes and streamlined programmes of data collection. Actual demonstration of consistency in the data dissemination by international statistical offices.

#### **Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

- The in-depth review of sub-programmes 3 (economic statistics) and 4 (social and demographic statistics) of the integrated presentation, which the Bureau performed in 1994/95 at the request of the Conference.

**Decisions by the Conference at the 1995 plenary session:** The Conference agreed

- To approve the planned activities of the Conference in this programme element.

#### **Meetings in the next two years:**

ECE-Eurostat-OECD Joint Programme Review Meetings (Annually).  
Numerous meetings of various Intersecretariat Working Groups.

IMF: Most of the committees and task forces mentioned meet once to twice a year.

CIS STAT: Organization of a number of meetings and working groups on specific areas of statistical activity.

**Rapporteur/focal point:** (to be designated at the 1996 plenary session)

**Activities and means in the next two years:**

**Task Forces engaged in coordination:**

The UN Statistical Commission has set up intersecretariat working groups to deal with coordination issues and related matters in the following fields of statistics. (Additional information on the work of these working groups is presented in other parts of the integrated presentation, as indicated.)

- a) Task force on national accounts (see project 3.1 in document CES/1995/R.25/Add.3).
- b) Task force on finance statistics (see project 3.2 in document CES/1995/R.25/Add.3).
- c) Task force on trade statistics (see project 3.3 in CES/1995/R.25/Add.3).
- d) Task force on services statistics (see project 3.6 in document CES/1995/R.25/Add.3).
- e) Task force on price statistics including the International Comparison Programme (see project 3.9 in CES/1995/R.25/Add.3).
- f) Task force on industrial and construction statistics (see project 3.11 in CES/1995/R.25/Add.3).
- g) Task force on the measurement of poverty (see project 4.13 in CES/1995/R.25/Add.4).
- h) Task force on environment statistics (see CES/1995/R.25/Add.5).

**Activities of ECE:**

- a) Coordinate the production of the integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes involving countries in the ECE region, based on input provided by ECE, Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, the UN specialized agencies and others.

- b) Collaborate, with Eurostat and OECD, in organizing annual Joint Programme Review meetings and in organizing Inter-secretariat Working Group meetings in individual fields of statistics.
- c) Inventory of international statistical cooperation in the ECE region, for the annual plenary sessions of the Conference.
- d) Coordination of statistical work undertaken by other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies and/or by ECE Divisions.

Secretariat resources: Substantial.

**Activities of OECD:** The OECD will continue its cooperation with other international institutions, particularly through participation in the Joint Programme Review meetings. Regular contacts will continue with the other major players.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (Theme 05: Public relations (part of))

Eurostat will continue its co-operation with other international institutions, in particular in the preparation for Joint Programme Reviews. Regular contacts will continue with the other major players.

**Activities of other organizations:**

UN Statistical Division (UNSD) : (a) updating and putting in electronic format the Directory of International Statistics ; (b) developing a full annotated list of methodological publications; (c) updating and modification of the inventory of statistical data collection activities; (d) updating and modification of the inventory of computerized statistical databases; (e) updating and modification of the list of classifications used in statistics. (see also project 1.1)

International Monetary Fund (IMF) : The IMF's activities concerning the promotion and coordination of international statistical work are organized, to a large extent, around a number of committees and task forces, for which the Fund is convener or in which it participates. The Fund is the convener of the Steering Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the Former Soviet Union, the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics, and of the UN Statistical Commission/ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities's Task Force on Finance Statistics. The Steering Committee provides a forum by which international organizations can meet on a regular basis to coordinate their technical assistance plans regarding the countries of the former Soviet Union and share experiences.

The IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics was established in 1992 to oversee the implementation of the recommendations presented in the reports of the two IMF Working Parties (Report on the Measurement of International Capital Flows and Report on the World Current Account Discrepancy), advise the Fund on methodological and compilation issues in the

context of balance of payments and international investment position statistics, and foster greater coordination of data collection among countries. The Committee has asked the Fund to constitute a task force to prepare a coordinated portfolio investment survey.

The UN Statistical Commission/ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities' Task Force on Finance Statistics was established in 1993, with a mandate to foster coordination and cooperation of data collection and dissemination activities and methodologies developments in the area of financial statistics.

The IMF is a member of the following UN Statistical Commission/ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities' task forces: the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts, the Task Force on Merchandise Trade Statistics, the Task Force on Price Statistics, the Task Force on Environment Statistics, and the Task Force on Service Statistics; and also attends meetings organized by EUROSTAT, EMI, and OECD in areas of common concerns.

#### 1.4 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

**Objectives over the next several years:** To assist statistical agencies of developing countries to operate in the same way as their counterparts in mature market economies; to help statistical agencies in developing countries promote the fundamental values adopted by Heads of agencies of ECE member countries; to promote technical cooperation with agencies in developing countries so that it respects basic priorities and minimizes duplication; to act as an advocate for developing countries so that international standards and methods are suitable for their use; to encourage efficient and coordinated delivery of assistance to developing countries.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** Periodic consideration by the Bureau and the plenary session of the Conference of ways in which statistical experience of ECE member countries could effectively be transferred to developing countries in other regions.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

**Decisions by the Conference at the 1995 plenary session:** The Conference reiterated that it considers this project to be a high priority one, even though few secretariat resources can be devoted to it each year.

**Meetings in the next two years:**

EUROSTAT: Statistical cooperation with the developing countries working group  
(4-5 December 1995)

EUROSTAT: Conference of Mediterranean countries (November 1995)

**Rapporteur/focal point:** (to be designated at the 1996 plenary session)

**Activities and means in the next two years:****Activities of ECE: (CES Priority A)**

To transfer useful knowledge and experience acquired in the programme of work of the Conference relevant to developing countries (e.g. in fields such as population and housing censuses and environment statistics), through reports prepared for submission to the Statistical Commission and other means.

Secretariat resources: Minimal

**Activities of OECD:** It should be noted that the OECD categorizes its work on Development Assistance as economic statistics, and that this work is presented here only to integrate the presentation of statistical work of the various organizations.

Provides statistical support to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and to the International Working Group on External Debt Statistics (IWGEDS); these cover resource flows to developing, CEEC and NIS countries and norms and definitions for measuring and reporting the stock of external debt and reconciliation of debt flow data with balance of payments and debt stock data. Maintains the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and external debt statistics and coordinates these with the export credit data from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the World Bank's Debtor Reporting System. Supplies comparative data on individual donor performance.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (Theme 49: Statistical cooperation with developing countries)

Eurostat will continue promoting the practical and operational application of subsidiarity with the Member States. The aim is to achieve a high level of coordination of the measures taken by the various Member States in developing countries and the Commission in order that each reinforces the other and to increase efficiency. The approach adopted is to begin pragmatically with an exchange of information on the various statistical cooperation programmes, then to take case-by-case decisions on the possibility of bi- or multi-lateral joint operations. Management will be exercised by the institution best placed to carry out these functions.

The main priorities will continue to be the training of statisticians, support for external trade statistics (eg the EUROTRACE project) and support for statistics on food security.

Four other important elements should also be noted: the strengthening of the NSIs as institutions in the wake of the work carried out in the Ivory Coast; the creation of the UEMOA and the support provided by the Community, in particular, in the matter of prices; interesting developments in the unofficial economy, particularly with the 1-2-3 household survey; increased activity in the field of national accounts.

Cooperation with Latin America (especially Central America) is now taking shape.

The European Council, meeting in Essen in December 1994, stressed that the Mediterranean basin represents a priority area of strategic importance and reiterated the EU's willingness to support the Mediterranean countries in their efforts to transform their region into a zone of peace, stability, prosperity and co-operation, and to this end its willingness to establish a Euro-Mediterranean partnership. There have been recent developments in statistics with some countries, notably Libya and Palestine, and it is anticipated that co-operation with others in the region will be extended in the future.

#### **Activities of other organizations:**

UN Statistical Division (UNSD) : Activities will be oriented towards substantive support to Member States for a broad range of technical cooperation activities in economic, demographic and social statistics, data processing and informatics. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring developing and least-developed countries full access to appropriate new technologies for processing and disseminating statistics. Emphasis will also be placed on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts and the dissemination of related training materials in all countries, in close cooperation with the regional commissions and other members of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts. In addition, in recognition of the key role of human resources in the development process, on-job training will be arranged in the context of technical cooperation among developing countries.

The ILO : Labour statistics experts have been appointed to three of the ILO's multidisciplinary teams based in Abidjan, Addis Ababa and Bangkok. Their role is to provide technical advice in the field of labour statistics, to advise on the preparation and up-dating of ILO-country objectives, strategies and programmes and related research and analysis, and to give technical advice on the design, implementation and evaluation of projects.

Short-term assistance is provided by the staff of the Bureau of Statistics or external consultants. Long-term assistance is also provided in the form of projects mainly for establishing appropriate infrastructure and training national staff.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) : The Fund makes available technical assistance to all its developing member countries, mainly in government finance, balance of payments, and money and banking statistics, but also in merchandise trade and price statistics and, to a more limited extent, in national accounts. In all areas, technical assistance takes the form of two to three week on-site missions and in some cases resident statistical advisors have been appointed (generally at central banks).

Funding for technical assistance is provided by the IMF's own resources and from outside sources, in particular the UNDP and the Japan Administered Account.

**Annex I. Priority menu of the CES for 1995/96 and 1996/97  
in subprogramme 1 (Organization and operation of statistical services)**

a) 1995/96

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS PRIORITY MENU FOR 1995/96			
Programme element	Substantive action required of the ECE secretariat	Major coordination required	Output for the plenary session 1996
1.1 Issues of Statistical Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of CES plenary session</li> <li>- Organization of substantive discussion</li> <li>- Organization of Bureau meetings</li> <li>- Preparation of Portugal Seminar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All international agencies active in the region</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CES Annual Report</li> <li>- Discussion papers</li> <li>- Bureau's reports; minutes of meetings</li> <li>- Report</li> </ul>
1.2 Transition countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taking full account of the needs of countries in transition in the CES work programme, provision of guidance and advice to transition countries by the Regional Adviser</li> <li>- Participate in inter-agency coordination activities</li> <li>- To manage, as the executing agency, the UNDP regional project for the development of social and demographic statistics in transition countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, ILO, etc.</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, IWG.COORD, CIS</li> <li>- UNDP, Eurostat, UNSD, CIS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress report</li> <li>- Progress reports, as required</li> <li>- Progress report</li> </ul>
1.3 Promotion and coordination of international statistical work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes</li> <li>- Prepare Joint Programme Review meeting(s)</li> <li>- Preparation of resource inventory on statistical work in ECE region</li> <li>- Various intersecretariat working groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, Specialized Agencies, etc.</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD</li> <li>- All organizations</li> <li>- Various organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft Integrated presentation</li> <li>- Report</li> <li>- Inventory</li> </ul>
1.4 Developing countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation and provision of relevant CES documents to the Statistical Commission, UNSD and the Regional Commissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNSD, Regional Commissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress reports, as required</li> </ul>

b) 1996/97

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS PRIORITY MENU FOR 1996/97			
Programme element	Substantive action required of the ECE secretariat	Major coordination required	Output for the plenary session 1997
1.1 Issues of Statistical Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of CES plenary session</li> <li>- Organization of substantive discussion</li> <li>- Organization of Bureau meetings</li> <li>- Preparation of Portugal Seminar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All international agencies active in the region</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CES Annual Report</li> <li>- Discussion papers</li> <li>- Bureau's reports; minutes of meetings</li> <li>- Report</li> </ul>
1.2 Transition countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taking full account of the needs of countries in transition in the CES work programme, provision of guidance and advice to transition countries by the Regional Adviser</li> <li>- Participate in inter-agency coordination activities</li> <li>- To manage, as the executing agency, the UNDP regional project for the development of social and demographic statistics in transition countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, ILO, etc.</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, IWG.COORD, CIS</li> <li>- UNDP, Eurostat, UNSD, CIS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress report</li> <li>- Progress reports, as required</li> <li>- Progress report</li> </ul>
1.3 Promotion and coordination of international statistical work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes</li> <li>- Prepare Joint Programme Review meeting(s)</li> <li>- Preparation of resource inventory on statistical work in ECE region</li> <li>- Various intersecretariat working groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, Specialized Agencies, etc.</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD</li> <li>- All organizations</li> <li>- Various organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft Integrated presentation</li> <li>- Report</li> <li>- Inventory</li> </ul>
1.4 Developing countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation and provision of relevant CES documents to the Statistical Commission, UNSD and the Regional Commissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNSD, Regional Commissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress reports, as required</li> </ul>

**Annex II. Consolidated list of international meetings  
in subprogramme 1 (Organization and operation of statistical services)**

	Principal Sponsoring Organization			
	ECE	Eurostat	OECD	Other organizations
1.1 Issues of statistical policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 44th and 45th sessions of the CES (June 96 &amp; 97)</li> <li>- 4 meetings of the CES Bureau (annually)</li> <li>- Seminar for heads of statistical services (Sept. 1996)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SPC-DGINS meetings (4 per year)</li> <li>- CEIES - 1 plenary, 6 sub-committee, 2 bureau meetings annually</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual meeting for heads of NSOs held back-to-back with the CES</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNSD: ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities</li> <li>- UNSD - Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination</li> <li>- CIS STAT: Working Group on statistical standards and methods</li> </ul>
1.2 Transition countries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working Group concerning FSU countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting of donors and recipients of technical assistance in national accounts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CIS STAT: Working Group on computerization of statistics</li> </ul>
1.3 Promotion and coordination of international statistical work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joint Programme Review meeting (with Eurostat and OECD) (Autumn 1995)</li> <li>- Intersecretariat Working Group meetings (misc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intersecretariat Working Group meetings (misc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joint Programme Review meeting (with ECE and Eurostat) (Autumn 1996)</li> <li>- Intersecretariat Working Group meetings (misc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IMF: Committee and task force meetings</li> <li>- CIS STAT: Meetings in specific fields of statistical activity</li> </ul>
1.4 Technical assistance to developing countries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statistical cooperation with developing countries</li> <li>- Conference of Mediterranean countries</li> </ul>		