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STATISTICAL COMMISSION

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Fifty-fourth plenary session
Paris, 13-15 June 2006

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The plenary session will start at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 13 June and will finish on Thursday 15 June at 5:30 p.m. It will be held in Paris in Salle Louis Armand at the premises of L'Union Internationale des Chemins de Fer-Patrimoine (UICP), 16 rue Jean Rey, 75016 Paris.

Documents for the meeting may be downloaded from the web site that has been specially prepared for this meeting:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.06.ces.htm>

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 2006 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) will continue to follow the format introduced in 2002 by the 50th CES. The plenary session includes a formal session and two seminars. The formal session will deal with the review of general issues such as the international statistical work in the region, while the two seminars will focus on population and housing censuses and human resources and training.

2. An annotated provisional agenda and a tentative timetable for the 2006 plenary session are presented below. All the documents for the meeting will be posted on the UNECE Statistical Division's web site as they become available. **Delegates are kindly asked to bring their own copies of documents with them, as no paper copies will be made available in the meeting room.**

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Time	Item	Topic	Document
Tuesday 13 June (14:30-17:30)			
14:30-14:50	1	OPENING ADDRESSES and ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	ECE/CES/69
14:50-17:30		<i>FORMAL BUSINESS</i>	
14:50-15:00 15:00-15:10	2	MEETINGS OF THE PARENT BODIES OF THE CES - The February 2006 session of the ECE - The March 2006 session of the UN Statistical Commission	ECE/CES/2006/1
15:10-15:15 15:15-15:45	3	COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE UNECE REGION Chairman's introductory comments Coordination of international statistical work in the UNECE region: (a) issues and problems and Rapporteur Reports (b) procedures for developing and adopting standards and recommendations by the Conference and its Bureau (c) technical cooperation	ECE/CES/2006/2 and add. 1-4
15:45-16:05		<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
16:05-16:40		Coordination of international statistical work in the UNECE region (continued) (d) in-depth review of crime statistics	
16:40-16:50	4	PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION (a) progress reports on the Teams of Specialists working under CES (b) UNECE Statistical Programme: report on 2005 and plans for 2006 (c) follow-up to decisions taken by the CES and its Bureau (d) 2006 issue of the Database of International Statistical Activities (formerly called Integrated Presentation)	
16:50-17:30	5	GUIDELINES AND CORE PRINCIPLES FOR MANAGING CONFIDENTIALITY AND MICRODATA ACCESS	

Time	Item	Topic	Document
Wednesday, 14 June (9:30-12:30 and 14:30-17:30)			
9:30-16:20		FIRST SEMINAR: POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES	
9:30-9:35	6	Introductory comments by the Chairman: Karen Dunnell (Director of ONS, United Kingdom)	
9:35-10:50		Session I: The role and use of censuses Session organizer: Jean-Michel Charpin (INSEE, France) Discussant: Werner Haug (Switzerland) Invited papers: Norway Australia Kazakhstan Supporting papers: OECD, UNECE, Hungary, FAO General discussion	
10:50-11:10		Coffee/tea break	
11:10-12:30		Session II: Design and essential features of censuses Session Organiser: Jay Keller (U.S. Census Bureau) Discussant: Jean-Claude Milleron Invited papers: United States France Netherlands Albania Supporting paper: Finland General discussion	
12:30-14:30		LUNCH	
	6	SEMINAR ON POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES (cont.)	
14:30-16:10		Session III: Challenges in managing and implementing censuses Session organizer: Peter Scrimgeour (General Register Office for Scotland, United Kingdom) Discussant: Nancy McBeth (New Zealand) Invited papers: Slovenia Spain UK Canada Supporting paper: Spain General discussion	
16:10-16:20		Concluding remarks by the Chairman of the Seminar	
16:20-16:40		Coffee/tea break	
16:40-17:30	7	ADOPTION OF THE CES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2010 CENSUSES OF POPULATION AND HOUSING	

Thursday, 15 June (9:30-12:30 and 14:30-17:30)			
Time	Item	Topic	Document
9:30-17:10		SECOND SEMINAR: HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING	
9:30-9:35	8	Introductory comments by the Chairman: Jan Fischer (Czech Republic)	
9:35-10:50		<p>Session I: Human resources as a main element of the modern statistical office; vocational training of employees</p> <p>Session organiser: Ivan Fellegi (Canada)</p> <p>Discussants: Jan Plovsing (Denmark), Irena Krizman (Slovenia), Luigi Biggeri (Italy)</p> <p>Invited papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Canada Finland Germany Spain Sweden Ukraine <p>Supporting papers: Japan</p> <p>General discussion</p>	
10:50-11:10		<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
11:10-12:30		Session I (cont.)	
12:30-14:30		LUNCH	
	8	SEMINAR ON HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING (cont.)	
14:30-15:50		<p>Session II: The role the statistical office has to play in educating the public, in preparing future producers and users of statistics</p> <p>Session organiser: Heli Jeskanen-Sundström (Finland)</p> <p>Discussant: Dennis Trewin (Australia)</p> <p>Invited papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estonia USA Eurostat <p>Supporting papers: Finland</p> <p>General discussion</p>	
15:50-16:10		<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
16:10-17:10		<p>Session III: Statistical training at international level for higher quality of statistics and of training activities</p> <p>Session organiser: Eurostat</p> <p>Discussant: Richard Laux (ONS, UK)</p> <p>Invited papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a transition country IMF Eurostat <p>General discussion</p>	
		Concluding remarks by the Chairman of the Seminar	
17:10-17:15	9	SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR SEMINARS TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION	
17:15-17:20	10	OTHER BUSINESS	
17:20-17:30	11	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	Draft report
17:30		CLOSING OF THE MEETING	

III. EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

3. The proposed provisional agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the CES Bureau at its February 2006 meeting. The provisional agenda and timetable are presented for the approval of the Conference.

Item 2: Meetings of the parent bodies of the CES: the February 2006 session of the Economic Commission for Europe and the March 2006 session of the UN Statistical Commission

4. Information on the discussions held at the February 2006 session of the Economic Commission for Europe and on resolutions and decisions taken that have a bearing on the work of the Conference will be presented in ECE/CES/2006/1. There will be also a short oral report on the outcome of the March 2006 session of the UN Statistical Commission.

Item 3: Coordination of international statistical work in the UNECE region

5. This agenda item is concerned with issues affecting the coordination of international statistical work in the UNECE region and the decisions and recommendations that the Conference is expected to take on the related issues.

3(a) Issues and problems and Rapporteur Reports

6. Each February, the CES Bureau analyses selected statistical areas to identify issues and problems in international work and to make proposals for follow-up actions. In February 2006, the following statistical areas were examined: quality frameworks and the link with institutional frameworks and principles; statistics on globalization; justice and crime statistics, including the safety concept; and health statistics. The Rapporteur Reports will be provided for information (except justice and crime statistics, which will be reviewed in depth by the Conference under agenda item 3(e)).

3(b) Procedures for developing and adopting standards and recommendations by the Conference and its Bureau

7. In June 2005, the Conference endorsed the updated Rules governing the work of the Conference and its Bureau (CES/2005/2). According to the Rules, one of the objectives of the Conference is "to discuss and adopt statistical standards in the UNECE region". To implement this decision, the Bureau approved in February 2006 a common procedure for the preparation and adoption of the various products (e.g. standards, recommendations, handbooks) by the Conference and its Bureau.

3(c) Technical cooperation

8. In February 2006, the Bureau approved the proposals for coordination of technical cooperation in the UNECE region prepared by the UNECE secretariat in cooperation with Eurostat and the CIS Statistical Committee. The paper is provided for information.

3(d) In-depth review of justice and crime statistics, including the safety concept

9. The Conference will consider justice and crime statistics based on Rapporteur Reports prepared by Italy and the Netherlands. The CES Bureau selected this topic for in-depth discussion at its meeting on 20-21 February 2006. The aim of the discussion is to find a way to resolve the identified problems and propose follow-up actions to improve international work on crime statistics.

Item 4. Progress reports for information

4(a) Progress reports on the Teams of Specialists working under the CES

10. The progress reports of Teams of Specialists (Steering Groups, Task Forces) working under the auspices of the Conference, and the reports from experts' meetings held since June 2005, will be presented for information.

4(b) UNECE Statistical Programme: report on 2005 and plans for 2006

11. A short report on the work undertaken by the UNECE Statistical Division in 2005 and plans and challenges for 2006 will be presented for information.

4(c) Follow-up to decisions taken by the CES and its Bureau

12. A note that follows up on the decisions taken by the Bureau and the Conference as reflected in the respective reports is updated for each Bureau meeting and for the CES plenary session. Its aim is to identify possible delays and facilitate taking decisions for further action.

4(d) 2006 issue of the Database of International Statistical Activities (formerly called Integrated Presentation)

13. The Database of International Statistical Activities provides information on current statistical activities of all major international organizations active in the UNECE region. UNECE has been compiling this information at the request of the Bureau for a number of years. Since 2002, the information is available on the Internet in a database format at the UNECE web site (<http://unece.unog.ch/IntPres/default.asp>). The UNECE secretariat will provide brief information on the 2006 version of the database.

Item 5: Guidelines and core principles for managing confidentiality and microdata access

14. As a follow-up to the Seminar on Confidentiality and Microdata in 2003, a Task Force chaired by Dennis Trewin has developed common international principles on the provision of access to microdata. Countries and international organizations have extensively commented on the draft. Progress reports of the work were considered at the CES 2004 and 2005 plenary sessions. The Bureau endorsed the document at its February 2006 meeting as Interim Guidelines, pending their approval by the CES Plenary Session. The document is presented to the Conference for endorsement.

Item 6: Seminar on Population and Housing Censuses

15. The seminar is organised by the CES Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses. It will be chaired by Karen Dunnell (Director of ONS, United Kingdom).

Session 1: The role and use of censuses

Session Organiser: Jean-Michel Charpin, Director General of INSEE (France)

Discussant: Werner Haug (Switzerland)

Invited papers by: Australia, Kazakhstan, Norway

16. The session will discuss the role of the census in National Statistical Systems with the objective of clarifying its unique and important contribution. Issues related to the integration of census data with other sources, the unique role that the census plays in different NSOs and the comparability of census data with other sources will be discussed.

17. Regarding the uses of a census, the session will discuss from a user perspective what the key data are that a census can provide for a society (politics, national and local authorities, researchers, private users, citizens). The discussion will aim at understanding how censuses may evolve over time and what alternative sources and approaches can be used in order to continue to respond to this demand (in terms of content, definitions, and methodology).

Session 2: Design and essential features of censuses

Session Organiser: Jay Keller (US Census Bureau)

Discussant: Jean-Claude Milleron

Invited papers: Albania, France, Netherlands, United States

18. The purpose of the session is to review the methodologies that are emerging in the region for census taking and to discuss the essential features of a census in relation to these new methodologies. Questions that will be addressed are: What makes a census different from other data collection activities? What data collection activities should be labelled as 'census'? What are the conditions that need to be in place in order to move away from a traditional census and adopt new methodology? What are the advantages and disadvantages of new and traditional methodology? Invited papers for this session will represent the various approaches in the ECE region, including traditional, register-based, and rolling censuses.

Session 3: Challenges in managing and implementing censuses

Organiser: Peter Scrimgeour (General Register Office for Scotland, UK)

Discussant: Nancy McBeth (New Zealand)

Invited papers: Canada, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom

19. Countries face a wide range of challenges and problems in delivering censuses successfully. For example, there can be problems with the uses of census data, the coordination of the census, and the funding of the census, as well as with the practicalities of capturing comprehensive and accurate information. Some of the challenges are being met by introducing a range of new census-taking technologies – for example, using the Internet for data capture, using hand-held devices in the field. In other cases, countries are looking to outsource some or all activities related to census data processing and other aspects of census-taking. The session aims at exploring how countries are meeting census challenges and the implications for census management, quality control and confidentiality.

Item 7: Adoption of the CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing

20. The CES Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses, together with a number of Task Forces, have been developing the draft set of CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing. The Recommendations will be presented to the Conference for endorsement.

Item 8: Seminar on Human Resources and Training

21. The Seminar is organised by the Czech Statistical Office (CSO). It will be chaired by Jan Fischer, President of the CSO.

Session 1: Human resources as a main element of the modern statistical office; vocational training of employees.

Session organiser: Ivan Fellegi (Canada)

Discussants: Jan Plovsing (Denmark), Irena Krizman (Slovenia), Luigi Biggeri (Italy)

Invited papers: Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine

22. The session will deal with the following questions concerning human resources: How are statistical organizations planning for their human resources (HR) requirements? How is such HR planning integrated with their substantive planning? What are the profile and capabilities of the modern statistician? What methods do they use to select and hire the best possible candidates for available vacancies? What programmes do they have in place to enhance the development of staff? What are the strategies to attract, develop and retain talent? What tools do they have in place to monitor and maintain turnover of staff at a reasonable level? Do they have measures in place to assess the satisfaction of employees and, if so, how do they use the findings?

23. The following questions concerning vocational training of employees will be also considered: the role of the national statistical office in training employees; a systematic approach to the NSO's needs and an individual approach to employees in the process of vocational training; forms of assessing training needs to fill theoretical and practical gaps of both new and long-standing employees; new forms of vocational training (e-learning, mentoring, coaching, etc.); measurement and evaluation of training effects; building a self-learning organization – strategies, tools, implementation and evaluation.

Session 2: The role the statistical office has to play in educating the public, in preparing future producers and users of statistics

Session organiser: Heli Jeskanen-Sundström (Finland)

Discussant: Dennis Trewin (Australia)

Invited papers: Estonia, USA, Eurostat

24. The session will deal with the following issues: preparation of potential employees for official statistics (e.g. cooperation with universities) and involvement of the statistical office in this activity; statistical training in universities; procedures focussed on the training of current as well as prospective statistical data users, with particular attention to specific groups of users' forms of training, experience and benefits; the experience of web schools.

Session 3: Statistical training at international level for higher quality of statistics and of training activities

Session organiser: Eurostat

Discussant: Richard Laux (ONS, United Kingdom)

Invited papers: IMF, Eurostat, transition country

25. The session will consider the importance of statistical training for the improvement of skills, including better understanding and application of international statistical standards, among other things, to promote data comparability; role of international organizations in statistical training; training as part of the overall assistance to statistical services in transition countries; international exchange of best practices in the field of statistical training, transfer of knowledge and experience of training methods.

Item 9: Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the next plenary session

26. A list of possible topics for seminars to take place during the 2006 plenary session will be distributed by the ECE secretariat in advance of the plenary session to consult the CES member countries. The Bureau will submit a proposal for discussion and approval by the Conference.

Item 10: Other business

27. Under this agenda item can be taken up any additional issues that the Conference needs to be informed of.

Item 11: Adoption of the report

28. The Conference is expected to adopt the report of the 2006 plenary session before it adjourns. The report will be short and will be limited as far as possible to decisions taken by the Conference during the course of the plenary session. The final report of the plenary session will be produced within two weeks or so after the plenary session and will be made available on the UNECE Web site.

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