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23 June 17:30**Economic Commission for Europe****Conference of European Statisticians****Seventy-first plenary session**

Geneva, 22–23 June 2023

Report of the seventy-first plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians**I. Introduction****A. Attendance**

1. The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) held its seventy-first plenary session on 22-23 June 2023 in Geneva. Most participants attended in person while some attended through remote connection.
2. The session was attended by representatives from [list of countries to be filled in based on attendance record].
3. The session was also attended by representatives of the [list of organizations to be filled in based on attendance record].

B. Opening and adoption of the agenda*Documentation:* ECE/CES/104

4. P. Dalton, the Chair of CES, chaired the plenary session. He opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The provisional agenda (ECE/CES/104) was adopted.

II. Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics*Documentation:* ECE/CES/2023/9 and 9/Add.1-2**Action taken by the Conference**

5. The Conference:
 - approves the annual report of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS), including the outcomes of the activities carried out in 2022 and plans for the rest of 2023 (ECE/CES/2023/9 and Add.2)
 - approves the updated terms of reference for the continuation of HLG-MOS work for 2023-2025 (ECE/CES/2023/9/Add.1);

- supports the continuation of the work on modernization of official statistics, and requests the HLG-MOS to continue reporting annually on the outcomes of its work and plans for the following year;
- invites national and international statistical organizations to support the HLG-MOS work programme and to become partners in the Statistical Modernization Community.

III. Moving towards open-source technologies – strategic and managerial perspective

Documentation: ECE/CES/2023/19 - 23

6. The session was chaired by Francesca Kay (Ireland).

Action taken by the Conference

7. The Conference:

- supports the continuation of the work of the Open-Source Adoption team under HLG-MOS, taking into account the strategic issues and priorities identified during the discussion of the session, and encourages countries to contribute to the team's work
- asks HLG-MOS and the CES Bureau to discuss the follow-up to this session and decide on further steps.

IV. Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

A. Outcomes of the recent in-depth reviews carried out by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

Documentation: 5, 5/Add.1, 7, 7/Add.1, 12, 13

Action taken by the Conference

8. The Conference confirms the following topics of the upcoming in-depth reviews, and asked the Secretariat and countries leading the reviews to report on the outcomes in June 2024:

- a) **Use cases for alternative population bases** – (October 2023; led by Poland and UK; contributions by Albania, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand)
- b) **Linking data across domains and sources** (October 2023/February 2024; leader tbd; Canada, Poland, UK and OECD will refine the topic to better focus the review)
- c) **Timeliness and frequency of official statistics** (February 2024; led by Canada and Portugal; contributions by Poland and UK)
- d) **Administrative microdata for climate, energy and environment statistics** (February 2024; led by Ireland; contributions by Australia, Denmark, Netherlands, Poland, UK, OECD)

9. Countries who would like to contribute to the reviews are invited to inform the Secretariat.

10. The Conference endorses the outcome of the in-depth review on measuring well-being, supports the proposal to set up a Task Force to develop guidelines to assist countries in producing well-being indicators, and requests the Task Force to report back on the guidelines.

11. The Conference endorses the outcome of the in-depth review on data ethics and asks the CES Bureau to decide on next steps in this area based on the outcome of the discussion at the CES seminar on this topic on 28 June 2023.

B. Hard-to-reach groups in administrative sources

Documentation: ECE/CES/2023/6 and 6/Add.1

Action taken by the Conference

12. The Conference endorses the outcome of the review on hard-to-reach groups in administrative sources, supports setting up a Task Force on this topic, and asks the Task Force to report back to the Conference. The Task Force should take into account in its work the feedback from the electronic consultation and the discussion during the CES 2023 plenary session.

C. Social cohesion

Documentation: ECE/CES/2023/8 and 8/Add.1

Action taken by the Conference

13. The Conference endorses the outcome of the review on social cohesion, and supports further work by a Task Team in this area, taking into account the feedback from the electronic consultation and the discussion during the CES 2023 plenary session.

V. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference

A. Core values of official statistics and the related behaviours

Documentation: ECE/CES/2023/1, 1/ Rev.1 and 1/Add.1

Action taken by the Conference

14. The Conference endorses the updated document *Core Values of Official Statistics: Defining the behaviours that show how we live the values* (ECE/CES/2023/1/Rev.1), and encourages countries and organizations to make use of this material in day-to-day practical work, as well as in strategic documents. The Conference will review in a few years how the core values and behaviours are used in practice.

15. The country examples to illustrate the behaviours will be made available on the web.

B. Data stewardship

Documentation: ECE/CES/2023/2 and 2/Add.1

Action taken by the Conference

16. The Conference endorses the document *Data stewardship and the role of national statistical offices in the new data ecosystem*, (ECE/CES/2023/2), subject to amendments presented in ECE/CES/2023/2/Add.1.

17. The Conference supports the proposals for further work on data stewardship and requests the CES Bureau to decide on priorities in this work taking into account the feedback from electronic consultation and the discussion at the CES 2023 plenary session.

C. Measuring circular economy

Documentation: ECE/CES/2023/3 and 3/Add.1

Action taken by the Conference

18. The Conference endorses the *Joint UNECE/OECD Guidelines for Measuring Circular Economy (Part A)* (ECE/CES/2023/3), subject to amendments presented ECE/CES/2023/3/Add.1.

19. The Conference supports the continuation of work to develop Part B of the material, including guidance on data sources and on using indicators, the required institutional collaboration, and more case examples.

D. Set of core disaster-risk-related indicators

Documentation: ECE/CES/2023/4 and 4/Add.1

Action taken by the Conference

20. The Conference endorses the *Pilot set of core disaster-risk-related indicators* (ECE/CES/2023/4), subject to amendments presented ECE/CES/2023/4/Add.1.

21. The Conference supports the continuation of work to develop practical implementation guidelines, including guidance on data sources and on using indicators, and more case examples.

22. The Conference supports the continuation of work to contribute to the global efforts on the statistical operationalization of terms, definitions and classifications used in disaster risk management.

VI. Access to privately held data

Action taken by the Conference

23. The Conference supports further work on collaboration with private data holders, and asks the Task Team to report on the outcome of its work in 1-2 years time. Countries and organizations who are interested to join the Task Team are invited to contact the UNECE Secretariat.

VII. Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Documentation: ECE/CES/2023/10, 14 and addenda, 15, 15/Add.1, 16, 16/Add.1, 17, and INF.1

Action taken by the Conference

24. The Conference confirms the decisions of the CES Bureau as reflected in their meeting reports and approves the report on the implementation of the 2022 UNECE Statistical Programme (ECE/CES/2022/14 and Addenda).

25. The Conference welcomes the annual report by the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia (ECE/CES/2023/10), and requests the group to continue reporting annually on its work.

26. The Conference takes note of the implications of the UN Statistical Commission session in March 2023, and the UNECE Commission session in April 2023 for the work of the Conference.

27. The Conference adopts the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2023 and the changes to the publications programme (ECE/CES/2023/15 and Add.1).

28. The Conference adopts the Programme of Work for 2024 including the list of planned publications and meetings, and recommends it to the EXCOM for approval (ECE/CES/2023/16 and Add.1). Regarding the decision to organize an expert meeting on statistics on children, the Conference requests this meeting be conducted in 2024 with interpretation and translation of the agenda and report to the UNECE official languages.

29. The Conference endorses the Terms of Reference of the Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (a joint body under the CES and the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP)) as a standing body under the CES and CEP. Pending endorsement by the CEP, the Secretariat is requested to submit the TOR of the group to UNECE EXCOM for approval.

30. The Conference requests to be informed in 2024 about the implementation of the statistical programme and the outcomes of the expert meetings in 2023, and the statistical programme for 2024.

31. The Conference endorses the outline of key components of the programme of work of Statistics subprogramme for 2025 including the amendment recommended by the Bureau (ECE/CES/2023/INF.1).

32. The Conference requests the CES Teams of Specialists to regularly report to the Conference, in particular when they have completed an important part of work, and present summaries of electronic consultations on their final outputs.

33. The Conference emphasizes the importance of translating into English, French and Russian the main documents for the CES plenary session and the meetings of its Groups of Experts (the main documents include a provisional agenda, a report and one main document for each agenda sub-item. For the CES plenary session, the main documents include in addition six documents for each sub-session).

34. The Conference emphasizes the importance of providing interpretation in English, French and Russian for the CES plenary session and the meetings of the Groups of Experts, and of recording meetings listed in the meeting calendar.

VIII. Data ethics – a key enabler of social acceptability

Documentation: ECE/CES/2023/24-26

Action taken by the Conference

35. The Conference asks the Bureau to discuss the follow-up to the seminar ‘Data ethics - a key enabler of social acceptability’ (held on 28 June 2023), taking into account the work currently undertaken under the HLG-MOS, decide on further steps at its October 2023 meeting, and report back to the CES plenary session in 2024.

IX. Timeliness, frequency and granularity of official statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/2023/27-33

36. The Conference asks the Bureau to take into account the discussion on timeliness, granularity and frequency of official statistics (held on 28 June 2023) in the in-depth review of that topic in February 2024, decide on further steps, and report back to the CES plenary session in 2024.

X. Election of the CES Bureau

37. According to the *Rules governing the work of the Conference and its Bureau* and based on the proposal put forward by A. Zigure (Latvia), the Kingmaker, the Conference elected the following Heads of National Statistical Offices to serve on the Bureau for the 2023-2025 term of office:

Padraig Dalton (Ireland) as Chair;
and the following Vice-Chairpersons of the Bureau:

Elsa Dhuli, Albania
Anil Arora, Canada
Dominik Rozkrut, Poland
Ian Diamond, United Kingdom
Graciela Márquez, Mexico
Mark Sowden, New Zealand

38. As the CES decided in 2021, the Kingmaker (the most senior previous Chair or Vice-Chair of the Conference) is a permanent observer on the Bureau. Currently the Kingmaker is Aija Zigure, Latvia.

39. Mr. Stepan Mnatsakanyan (Armenia) will continue his duties in the Bureau until a consensus is reached to fill the one remaining vacant post on the Bureau. The Conference will continue the consultation process through a written procedure.

XI. Other business

40. The seventy-second CES plenary session is planned to take place during the week of 17-21 or 24-28 June 2024 (exact dates to be confirmed), back-to-back with the meeting of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP), and the plenary session of UN-GGIM (as decided by the 70th CES plenary session).
