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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Conference of European Statisticians

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Item 11 of the provisional agenda

#### **Programme planning documents for the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

### **Programme of Work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2020**

#### **Note by the Secretariat**

##### *Summary*

In its resolution A/72/266 “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations”, the General Assembly approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis, beginning with the programme budget for 2020.

The current document presents the programme of work for the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) for 2020. The programme of work for 2020 follows the format of and is in line with the ECE proposed programme budget for 2020. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians adopted the programme of work at its February 2019 meeting.

This document is submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians for adoption and for recommending it to the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for approval.



## **I. Introduction**

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the statistics subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2020. The Conference of European Statisticians (“the Conference”) will be invited to adopt it and recommend to the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) for approval. Any subsequent additional, discontinued or carried over outputs will be reflected in the UN Umoja system used by the Secretariat for planning, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach, a broad management approach which establishes logical relationship between the hierarchical results (deliverables – objectives – impact) known as ‘results chain’, the resources (human and financial) known as ‘inputs’ and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) which can prevent from achieving the objective.
3. The objective, the most significant planned result and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2020. The objective of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In attaining its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE nexus areas where multiple SDGs converge<sup>1</sup>. This type of collaboration enables the subprogramme to maximize existing synergies, increase the efficiency of its work and have a multiplying effect on the impact of its actions to support countries to implement SDGs. The deliverables of the subprogramme fall into the following main categories: (a) facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies; (b) generation and transfer of knowledge, including technical cooperation projects, training events, seminars, workshops, and publications; (c) other substantive deliverables, and (d) communication deliverables.
4. The details of the proposed publications are provided in Annex I. The overall ECE legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme are listed in Annex II.

## **II. Objective and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals**

5. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance official statistics at the national and international levels. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the UNECE Statistical Division.
6. Given its enabling nature, the objective is aligned with all Sustainable Development Goals.
7. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals serves as a framework for contributing to the objective of the subprogramme. Within this framework, the subprogramme will develop cross-sectoral activities with other ECE subprogrammes where there is complementarity between the respective SDGs and targets in line with the nexus areas described in paragraph 3 above.

## **III. Highlighted planned result for 2020: increasing number of countries producing improved statistics for Sustainable Development Goals**

8. The 2030 Agenda calls for participation of all United Nations Member States in providing national statistics to measure progress against seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. ECE as a facilitator of regional innovation, supports practical, country-led approaches to providing official statistics to inform policymaking for SDGs. In 2016-2018, ECE

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<sup>1</sup> The ECE nexus areas are as follows: 1) Sustainable use of natural resources; 2) Sustainable and smart cities for all ages; 3) Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and 4) Measuring and monitoring SDGs.

developed a regional *Road Map on statistics for SDGs* giving guidance to countries how to set up the system of providing SDG statistics. The Road Map was approved by the chief statisticians of about 65 member States from the ECE region and beyond in June 2017. Based on the guidance from the Road Map, countries have started to set up their systems of providing SDG indicators, with the statistical office as the main national coordinator.

9. By 2020, ECE plans to develop new practical guidance to help countries implement the Road Map by consolidating best practice from the first years of its use. A revised *Road Map on Statistics for SDGs* to reflect the emerging challenges was mandated by the Conference of European Statisticians to assist countries in their future work.

10. One of the challenges is that the data needs of the SDGs are wider than could be met by official statistics alone. There are several reasons: (i) SDGs target areas that were not covered by official statistics before, such as governance; (ii) SDGs require new statistics in traditional areas to assess sustainability or affordability of resources, and to identify the vulnerable groups left behind; and (iii) there are a number of non-statistical indicators on adherence of countries to specific policies which cannot be produced by official statistics because of the principle of impartiality.

11. Providing statistics for SDGs requires new types of partnerships between the national statistical office and other data producers, such as other government agencies, private companies, academia, or civil society. These kinds of partnerships are new to the statistical system. For example, the principle of ‘nobody left behind’ requires data on many vulnerable groups which are often small, hard to reach and to identify. Producing these data is costly. Other government agencies, private companies or civil society may provide information that will help to produce data on vulnerable groups more efficiently.

12. ECE plans to develop new guidance on how to establish partnerships between the national statistical office and other data producers in a way that would preserve the independence and impartiality of official statistics.

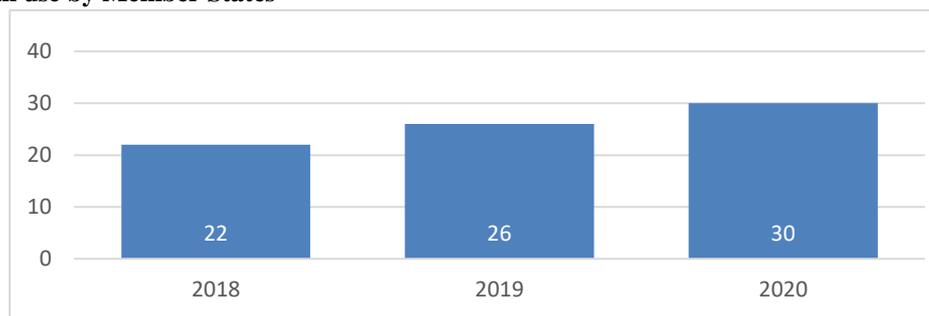
13. In addition, ECE is advancing new work to bring together experts from national statistical, mapping and geospatial agencies to share good practices in integrating geospatial and statistical information which is crucial for the measurement of SDGs. The use of geospatial data is the most efficient way to calculate a number of SDG indicators related to environment, land use and access to transport, in particular in countries with less developed statistical systems and for hard to reach areas.

14. Following the ECE Road Map, a number of countries are establishing national reporting platforms on statistics for SDGs. Such a national reporting platform provides a one-stop shop for national data on SDG indicators originating from the different sources in a country. It is an authoritative source of country data in line with the 2030 Agenda that states that its follow-up and review “will be primarily based on national official data sources” (resolution 70/1, para 74 (a)). First countries started to set up such a platform in 2016 working together with ECE on common approaches that could be used by other countries. By 2018, 22 countries in the ECE region had set up their national reporting platforms, and 7 countries were in the process (see Figure 1). Increasing this number further will require new approaches, including establishing of new partnerships, which the new ECE guidance will support. By 2020, it is expected that most of the countries in the region who decide to use a national reporting platform will have set it up, reaching at least 30 UNECE countries (as an estimate). Building on the experience in the ECE region, these platforms are now set up also in African and Latin American countries.

15. The planned deliverable is expected to contribute to the result which will be countries’ improved capacity to produce and communicate statistics for SDGs.

16. Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include increased availability of data on SDGs through 30 national reporting platforms, as shown in the figure below. The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards collective attainment of the objective of the subprogramme. It will contribute to the nexus area on measuring and monitoring SDGs.

Figure 1

**Performance measures: Number of national reporting platforms on statistics for SDGs in use by Member States**

17. The following resolutions comprise the main mandates entrusted to the subprogramme: General Assembly resolution 68/261 “Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics”, and ECOSOC resolutions 2015/10 “2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme”, 2016/27 “Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management” and 2017/7 “Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

#### IV. External factors

18. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) adequate resources are in place for monitoring the SDGs and supporting the national statistical offices; (b) budget constraints would not hamper the participation of national statistical offices in international work; (c) national and international statistical organizations’ willingness to cooperate remains high; (d) donors’ support is available for the modernization of statistical production; (e) national statistical offices continue to carry out development work on key statistical domains; and (f) data for the ECE statistical database are made available by statistical organizations free of charge and in a suitable format.

#### V. Deliverables to be implemented in 2020

19. The below table lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020 that would contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 1

**List of deliverables, by category and subcategory**

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>2020 plan</i>
Quantified deliverables	
<b>A. Facilitation of intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>	
1. Parliamentary documentation for the Conference of European Statisticians	43
2. Parliamentary documentation for expert bodies	38
<b>Substantive services for meetings (Number of 3-hour meetings)</b>	
3. Meetings of the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau	13
4. Meetings of expert bodies	72

**B. Generation and transfer of knowledge**

<b>Field and technical cooperation projects (Number of projects)</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Project in social and economic statistics	
<b>2. Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)</b>	<b>6</b>
3. Workshops in social and economic statistics	3
4. Workshops in innovating statistical production	3
<b>Publications (number of publications)</b>	<b>9</b>
5. Publications on cutting across multiple statistical areas	1
6. Publications in social and economic statistics	8

Non-quantified deliverables

**C. Substantive deliverables**

- Consultation, advice and advocacy: Advisory services for Government officials (staff in the national statistical systems) and other stakeholders of countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-East Europe on economic, social, demographic and environment statistics, statistics for SDGs, geospatial statistics and institutional issues and modernisation of official statistics.
- Databases and substantive digital materials: Update and maintenance of ECE Statistical Databases (Population and gender statistics database; Economic statistics database; Transport database; Forestry database).

**D. Communication deliverables:**

- Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: Leaflets and other promotional materials
  - External and media relations: Articles for the “UNECE Weekly” and “EnvStats” newsletters
  - Digital platforms and multimedia content: interactive digital workspaces (wikis); update and maintenance of the website of the subprogramme
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## Annex I

## Details of proposed publications and promotional material for 2020

### A. Recurrent publications

No recurrent publications planned for 2020.

### B. Non-recurrent publications

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language (s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	UNECE Conference of European Statisticians Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals – Second edition	ECE/CES/9 7	Print and electronic	A4	80	E	F (RB); R (RB)	300E, 100F, 200R
2	Guide on exchange and sharing of economic data	ECE/CES/9 7	Print and electronic	A4	200	E		
3	Satellite accounts for education and training. Compilation Guide	ECE/CES/9 7	Print and electronic	A4	150	E	R (RB)	800E, 150R
4	Recommendations on disaggregated poverty measures	ECE/CES/9 7	Print and electronic	A4	100	E	R (RB)	300E, 200R
5	Guidance on the measurement of the quality of administrative sources for use in censuses	ECE/CES/9 7	Print and electronic	A4	80	E	R (RB)	300E, 200R
6	Good practices in measuring social exclusion	ECE/CES/9 7	Print and electronic	A4	100	E		300E
7	Recommendations on measuring the gendered dimensions of intra-household power and decision-making	ECE/CES/9 7	Electronic only	A4	80	E		
8	Guidance on measuring old-age population in institutions	ECE/CES/9 7	Electronic only	A4	80	E		
9	Guidance on using longitudinal data in annual migration statistics	ECE/CES/9 7	Electronic only	A4	80	E		

### C. Promotional material

<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Print and/or electronic</i>	<i>Trim size</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>	<i>Original language (s)</i>	<i>Translated language(s) and Source of funding (RB or XB)</i>	<i>No. of copies and language(s)</i>
1	Leaflet on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals	ECE/CES/9 7	Print and electronic	A5	4	E		400E
2	Leaflet on Value of official statistics	ECE/CES/9 7	Print and electronic	A5	4	E		400E
2	Leaflet on Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	ECE/CES/9 7	Print and electronic	A5	4	E		400E

## Annex II

### Legislative mandates

#### A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

##### 1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
66/288	The future we want
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70/133	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
70/221	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
71/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
71/162	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
71/243	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
72/230	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
72/234	Women in development
72/237	South-South Cooperation
72/266	Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations
72/303	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
73/13	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

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73/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM
73/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
73/227	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
73/231	Disaster risk reduction
73/236	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

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## 2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

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<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
2016/2	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

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## 3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

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<i>Decision No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
A (64)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region
A (67)	Adoption of the High-level statement
B (67)	Establishment of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

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## B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

### 1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

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<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
67/144	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
68/261	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
69/210	Entrepreneurship for development
69/229	International migration and development

69/282	World Statistics Day
70/147	Protection of migrants
72/234	Women in development

## 2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity
2014/7	Further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
2015/10	2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme
2016/27	Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management
2017/7	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

## 3. Economic and Social Council decisions

<i>Decision No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
2010/235	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-first session and venue and dates of and provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-second session (Statistical Commission decision 41/112, Development indicators)
2011/245	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-second session and venue and dates of and provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-third session (Statistical Commission decision 42/104, Environmental-economic accounting)
2011/245	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-second session and venue and dates of and provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-third session (Statistical Commission decision 42/107, Short-term economic indicators)
2012/230	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-third session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fourth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 43/115, Regional statistical development in Europe)
2013/235	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fourth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fifth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 44/105, Environment statistics)
2014/219	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fifth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-sixth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 45/101, Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics)
2014/219	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fifth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-sixth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission

	decision 45/103, Programme review: broader measures of progress)
2014/219	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fifth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-sixth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 45/110, Big data and modernization of statistical systems)
2015/216	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-seventh session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 46/101, Data in support of the post-2015 development agenda)
2015/216	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-seventh session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 46/102, Population and housing censuses)
2015/216	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-seventh session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 46/107, International trade and economic globalization statistics)
2016/220	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 47/102 High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)
2016/220	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 47/104 Big data for official statistics)
2016/220	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 47/106 Environmental-economic accounting)
2016/220	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 47/112 Climate change statistics)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-ninth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 48/101: Global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-ninth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 48/103: Transformative agenda for official statistics)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-

	ninth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 48/104: Regional statistical development)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-ninth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 48/107: Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-ninth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 48/108: Integration of statistical and geospatial information)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-ninth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 48/111: National accounts)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-ninth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 48/114: Business registers)

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