

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

First Meeting of the 2009/2010 Bureau

Washington, D.C. (United States), 15-16 October 2009

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Bureau meeting is hosted by the IMF and the World Bank. The meeting will take place in the IMF building, Washington, D.C. The meeting will start at 9:30 on Thursday, 15 October 2009.

The meeting will be held in English only. The documents for the meeting will be distributed by e-mail as soon as they become available.

I. OPENING BY HELI JESKANEN-SUNDSTRÖM

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

1.

The CES Bureau makes a regular in-depth review of selected statistical areas. The review looks at strategic issues in statistics over the next five years or so and deals with issues of concern to statistical offices of a conceptual and coordinating nature. The aim of the review is to get an overview of international statistical work in the specified area, identify problems and seek solutions on how to address the challenges.

(a) Statistical dissemination, communication and publications

(ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/2 by UNECE and the Steering Group on Statistical Dissemination and Communication);

2.

The Bureau selected this area for in-depth review in February 2008. The Conference discussed challenges in the area of statistical dissemination, communication and publications at its June 2009 plenary session. The discussion provided useful input to the in-depth review to be carried out by the CES Bureau in October 2009. A new version of the paper is prepared for that purpose by the Steering Group and the UNECE secretariat, incorporating the inputs from the discussion.

3.

The members of the Bureau are invited to submit to the secretariat additional notes on the topic in advance of the Bureau meeting to provide a basis for the discussion.

4.

The Bureau will discuss statistical dissemination, communication and publications based on the paper by UNECE and the Steering Group on Statistical Dissemination and Communication, and any additional notes by Bureau members.

(b) Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics
(ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/3 by IMF);

5.

The Bureau selected this area for in-depth review in February 2008. The members of the Bureau are invited to submit to the secretariat additional notes on the topic in advance of the Bureau meeting to provide a basis for the discussion.

6.

The Bureau is invited to discuss government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics based on the paper by IMF and any additional notes by Bureau members.

(c) Follow-up to in-depth review on housing statistics (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/4 by UNECE)

7.

The Bureau made an in-depth review of housing statistics in February 2009. The Conference considered at its June 2009 plenary session the possible future work on housing statistics based on the results of the survey carried out among countries.

8.

The Bureau will discuss possible future work in housing statistics based on the outcome of the consultation with countries and the discussion at the CES plenary session.

(d) Follow-up to in-depth review of agriculture statistics
(ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/5 by Eurostat)

9.

The Bureau made an in-depth review of agriculture statistics in October 2008, and discussed follow-up in this area in February 2009. The in-depth review paper was circulated to the CES members for written comments in January 2009. The consultation with countries showed the need for more international coordination in agricultural statistics.

10.

The CES plenary session in June 2009 requested Eurostat to prepare the terms of reference for future work on agricultural statistics in the UNECE region that may involve setting up a "light" Task Force for this purpose

11.

The Bureau will consider the terms of reference for a Task Force on agriculture statistics.

(e) Selection of topics and organization of in-depth reviews by the Bureau in 2010
(ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/6 by UNECE)

12.

The Bureau has decided to review in depth 4-5 statistical areas every year. The areas reviewed can be either single topics from the classification of statistical activities, or a combination of related topics.

13.

The Bureau is expected to select the statistical areas to be reviewed during the next two years and identify Rapporteurs to prepare papers to provide a basis for the discussion. The UNECE secretariat will make a proposal for a few areas.

14.

Furthermore, the Bureau tested a new approach to the in-depth review of statistical dissemination, communication and publications through discussion of the topic at the June 2009 plenary session of the Conference. The aim of the discussion was to obtain input for the in-depth review by the Bureau in October.

15.

The Bureau is invited to evaluate the new approach and decide on the organization of the next in-depth reviews.

III. UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME FOR 2010

(ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/7 and Add.1 by UNECE)

16.

The UNECE Statistical Programme (SP) includes all statistical activities that are undertaken by the UNECE. It has been compiled since 2004. The draft programme for 2010 will be presented. It is proposed that the discussion focus on activities that are new or considerably changed compared to the SP 2009. The various Steering Groups and Task Forces that are related to the activities are also reviewed under this agenda item.

17.

Furthermore, the UNECE Executive Committee requested that the CES consider the outcome of the 63rd UNECE session. The Bureau will consider how to implement the decisions of the Commission in the Statistical Programme 2010.

(a) National accounts

18.

The Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts requested all regional commissions to develop regional plans for the implementation of the 2008 SNA in the next years and up to 2018 with due attention to improving the basic economic statistics as the necessary background. The UN Statistical Commission endorsed the request at its 2009 February session. The UNECE secretariat works with the CIS and South-East European countries in this area and will submit a proposal to the Bureau for its consideration.

(b) Impact of globalisation on national accounts (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/8 by the Group of Experts on the Impact of Globalisation on National Accounts)

19.

The Group of Experts on the Impact of Globalisation on National Accounts is developing guidelines on how to deal with the distortions to national accounts caused by globalisation. The Group will provide a progress report.

(c) Business statistics (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/9 by the Task Force on Business Statistics (chaired by Canada and Eurostat))

20.

Following the CES seminar on business statistics held in June 2009, the Task Force on Business Statistics will develop a work plan to undertake work in areas identified by the Conference.

21.

The Bureau is invited to comment on the work plan.

(d) Short-term statistics

22.

Following the outcome of a survey on seasonal adjustment in the CIS and Western Balkans countries carried out in 2008, the UNECE will undertake in 2009-2010 a capacity building program on short-term economic statistics (STS), financed by the World Bank.

23.

The Bureau is invited to comment on the planned work in the area of short-term statistics.

(e) Social statistics (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/10 by UNECE)

24.

The Task Forces on volunteer work and on families and households will present the final report of the work.

25.

The terms of reference (TOR) for a Steering Group on Emerging Issues in Social Statistics (replacing the old Task Force on Emerging Issues in Social Statistics) will be presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

(f) Health statistics (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/11 by UNECE)

26.

The revised TOR for the Steering Group and Task Force on Measuring Health Status will be presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

(g) Crime statistics (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/12 by UNECE)

27.

The 2009 CES plenary session agreed that further work be carried out on developing a crime classification. The TOR for a Joint UNECE/UNODC Task Force to work on that issue will be presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

(h) Migration statistics (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/13 by UNECE)

28.

The TOR of the Task Force on Improving Migration and Migrant Data Using Household Surveys and Other Sources (the so-called Suitland Working Group) will be presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

(i) Climate change

29.

The Bureau will discuss the planned CES work on climate change in view of the outcomes of the 63rd UNECE session in February 2009.

(j) Management of Statistical Information Systems (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/15 by UNECE)

30.

The 2009 Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems endorsed a proposal to establish a Sharing Advisory Board to provide strategic direction in the collaborative development and sharing of software, tools and methods used in the statistical business process. The Terms of Reference for this Sharing Advisory Board will be presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

(k) Coordination of technical cooperation in Central Asia

31.

The focus of this activity is changed following the implementation of the Partner Reporting System on Statistical Development (PRESS), maintained by PARIS21. Consequently there will be no need for the survey of technical cooperation activities in Central Asian countries that was carried out by the UNECE. The Bureau is invited to discuss a proposal for work in this area.

(l) Other issues

32.

The Bureau will discuss any other issues related to the Statistical Programme under this agenda item.

IV. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2009 UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/16 by UNECE)

33.

A short report on the work accomplished by the UNECE Statistical Division in 2009 will be presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

V. UNECE BIENNIAL EVALUATIONS OF 2008-2009, PLANNING FOR EVALUATIONS IN 2010-2011, AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2012-2013 (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/17 by UNECE)

34.

The Bureau is expected to discuss and approve the UNECE biennial evaluations of 2008-2009, planning for evaluations in 2010-2011, and strategic framework for 2012-2013. These documents are related to the UN programme planning and evaluation cycle.

VI. MANUAL ON GENDER STATISTICS (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/18 by the Task Force on Gender Statistics)

35.

The Task Force on Gender Statistics Training for Statisticians has been developing a manual entitled 'Developing gender statistics: a practical tool'.

36. The Manual will be presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

VII. CLASSIFICATION OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

(ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/19 by UNECE)

37. The classification of statistical activities was developed under the auspices of the Bureau in 2005 and implemented by the UNECE secretariat in the Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA). Since then, the classification has also been adopted as part of the SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange) Content-oriented Guidelines. The UNECE has received a request from the SDMX Secretariat to establish governance and maintenance procedures for this classification.

38. The Bureau is invited to discuss the proposed procedure and responsibilities for the maintenance of the International Classification of Statistical Activities.

VIII. COMMON METADATA FRAMEWORK (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/20 by UNECE)

39. The Steering Group on Statistical Metadata is developing a Common Metadata Framework (CMF). Part A of the framework, "Statistical Metadata in a Corporate Context", previously published in 2006, has recently been revised and updated, and work is progressing on the remaining three parts.

40. The revised Part A of the CMF is presented to the Bureau for comments and information. The Bureau is invited to comment on progress on the various parts of the framework, and particularly the recently developed "Generic Statistical Business Process Model".

IX. EVALUATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE CES SEMINARS AND THE 57TH CES PLENARY SESSION (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/21 by UNECE)

41. The results of the evaluation questionnaires of the 2008 CES plenary session will be presented for information.

42. Furthermore, the Bureau will discuss the follow-up to the CES seminars on professional autonomy and accountability (the follow-up to the seminar on business statistics is discussed under agenda item III (b) Business statistics).

X. PREPARATIONS FOR THE CES 2010 PLENARY SESSION

(a) Organization of the CES seminars (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/22 by Canada)

43. The Bureau will discuss how to further improve the organization of the CES seminars

(b) **Preparation of the formal session, draft agenda and timetable for the 2010 plenary session** (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/23 by UNECE).

44.

The Bureau is invited to discuss and comment on the organization of the CES plenary session in 2010.

(c) **Outline for the seminar on impact of crises on official statistics** (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/24 by IMF and OECD)

45.

An outline of the seminar will be presented to the Bureau for comments and recommendations.

(d) **Outline for the seminar on spatial statistics** (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/25 by Mexico and Eurostat)

46.

An outline of the seminar will be presented to the Bureau for comments and recommendations.

XI. DATES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE NEXT CES BUREAU MEETINGS

47.

The CES 2009 plenary session agreed with the Bureau's proposal to temporarily change the timing of the Bureau meetings as follows: (a) a two-day meeting in autumn (October-November); (b) a short meeting during the UN Statistical Commission session in February-March in New York, if necessary; and (c) a one-day meeting back-to-back with the CES plenary session in June.

48.

The Bureau is expected to discuss the implications of the changed timing for the work of the Bureau and a possible agenda for the Bureau meeting in February and June 2010.

49.

The Bureau is also expected to confirm the dates and venue of its next meetings.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

(a) **UNData**

50.

The Bureau briefly discussed the UN Data project at its October 2008 meeting. The UN Statistics Division (UNSD, New York) offered to provide more detail on the project at the October 2009 meeting of the CES Bureau.

51.

The UN Statistical Division will inform the Bureau about the progress of work with UNData.

(b) **Agenda for the Statistical Commission Session in February/March 2010** (UNSD)

52.

As agreed in October 2006, the UNSD will inform the Bureau at its October meetings about the provisional agenda of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

(c) **Follow-up to decisions** (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/26 by UNECE)

53.

A note on follow-up to the decisions taken by the Bureau and the Conference will be presented for information.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

54.

Any other business can be taken up under this agenda item. The Bureau will also be asked to decide which papers from the meeting will be made available on Internet in line with the Bureau decision to make its work public and transparent.

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