

First meeting of the 2009/2010 Bureau  
Washington, D.C., 15-16 October 2009

Item 3e of the Provisional  
Agenda

**FINAL REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE  
ON FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS**

**Note prepared by the UNECE secretariat**

1. The UNECE Task Force on Families and Households was created in 2003. Its main objective was to evaluate household and family issues encountered by countries in their 2000 population censuses and to develop improved recommendations on families and households for inclusion in the new set of UNECE-Eurostat recommendations for the 2010 round of population censuses. The Task Force carried out this activity in 2004 and 2005, and the census recommendations were adopted by the CES in 2006.
2. In 2005, the joint UNECE-Eurostat-OECD Meeting of Directors of Social Statistics highlighted families and households statistics as one of the emerging topics in social statistics. Different forms of living arrangements, such as same-sex couples, living apart together, commuters between households (people with multiple residences), persons living apart but within a network, were discussed. These family household types are becoming increasingly relevant in modern societies and that need to be defined at international and regional levels. The areas were also identified as a field where common survey modules could be designed.
3. Based on these considerations, the CES Task Force on Emerging Issues in Social Statistics decided to propose to continue the work of the Task Force on Families and Households. The new Terms of Reference were adopted by the CES Bureau in October 2006. The Task Force was expected to define the concepts related to policy concerns that would include the new forms of families and households and the issues related to family background; and to develop an analytical framework under which different forms of households and families can be measured<sup>1</sup>.
4. The Task Force on Families and Households reported on its progress to the CES Bureau in February 2008 and February 2009. The final report of the Task Force, presented as document ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/10/Add.1, is submitted to the CES Bureau for information.
5. It is planned to publish the report during 2010. With its publication, the Task Force will have completed its work.

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<sup>1</sup> The Terms of Reference are available at  
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/ece/ces/bur/2006/tf.431.e.pdf>