

Meeting of the 2015/2016 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 21-22 October 2015

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will start at 9:30 on Wednesday, 21 October, and is planned to finish at 17:00 on Thursday, 22 October 2015. The meeting will take place in Room XV at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

The traditional subscription dinner will be organised on Wednesday, 21 October 2015.

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. The documents will also be uploaded on the following website: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/bureau/CES+Bureau (username: ces; password: bureau8).

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY WAYNE SMITH

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

1. The CES Bureau regularly reviews selected statistical areas in depth. The aim of the review is to improve coordination of statistical activities in the UNECE region, identify gaps or duplication of work, and address emerging issues. These reviews are a key tool for the CES Bureau to coordinate statistical activities in the region. They often lead to new work in topical areas and result in tangible outputs such as guidelines or recommendations.

(a) **Strategic partnerships with stakeholders in the information industry** – *for discussion and recommendations* (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/2 by Canada)

2. The discussion will be based on a paper by Canada. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

(b) **Diversification of population census methodology and sources** – *for discussion and recommendations* (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/3 by Finland and Turkey)

3. The discussion will be based on a paper by Finland and Turkey. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

(c) **Proposal for topics for in-depth reviews in February and October 2016** – *for decision* (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/4 by UNECE)

4. The Bureau has selected geo-spatial statistics to be reviewed in-depth in February 2016 (paper to be prepared by UK and Eurostat). The Bureau will be invited to select additional topics to be reviewed in-depth in February and October 2016 based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

III. MEETING WITH THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF UNECE

5. Traditionally, the CES Bureau meets with the Executive Secretary and/or the representatives of the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) at its autumn meetings in Geneva. Mr. Christian Friis Bach, the UNECE Executive Secretary, will meet with the Bureau.

IV. UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME FOR 2016 – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/5 by UNECE)

6. The draft programme of work for the UNECE Statistical Division in 2016 will be presented to the Bureau for discussion and approval. The discussion will focus on the new or substantially changed activities of the work programme.

7. The work of steering groups and task forces set up by the CES Bureau is also reviewed under this agenda item. The groups are created for a particular task with concrete terms of reference, output, timeframe (2-3 years) and a sunset clause. The work results in methodological and practical guidelines, collections of leading practices and training materials available on the web. The terms of reference of active steering groups and task forces are available at www.unece.org/stats/ToS.html

(a) Integration of multiple data sources on migration (terms of reference) – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/6 by UNECE)

8. At its last meeting in February 2015, the Bureau considered the draft terms of reference for a new Task Force on integration of multiple data sources to improve the measurement of migration. The Bureau asked the secretariat to revise the terms of reference to emphasize the practical improvements that this work can bring to the quality of migration statistics. The Bureau is invited to review and approve the updated terms of reference.

(b) Labour mobility and globalization (terms of reference) – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/7 by the Task Force)

9. As a follow-up to the in-depth review on this topic in February 2015, the Bureau asked Austria and the UNECE Secretariat to draft the terms of reference for the Task Force on labour mobility and globalisation. In June 2015, the Conference of European Statisticians endorsed the outcome of the in-depth review and supported establishing a Task Force on this topic. The terms of reference have been drafted in collaboration with the following countries and organizations that expressed interest in participating in the Task Force: Austria, Poland, Turkey, Eurostat, OECD and the World Trade Organization.

10. The Bureau is invited to review and approve the terms of reference.

(c) Quality of employment (further work) – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/8 by UNECE)

11. The CES 2015 plenary session endorsed the *Handbook on Measuring Quality of Employment* and supported the proposals for further work presented in the Handbook. CES highlighted the need for further work to follow-up on practical experiences with using the Handbook and compiling the indicators, and proposed to continue to organize expert group

meetings on measuring quality of employment. The Bureau is invited to decide on the next steps based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

(d) Environmental indicators (terms of reference) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/9 by UNECE)

12. The UNECE Task Force on environmental indicators was set up in February 2009, jointly by CES and the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP). Its aim is to improve environmental statistics and strengthen environmental reporting in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. In October 2014, the CES Bureau approved the terms of reference of the Task Force to continue the work until 2018.

13. However, at its meeting on 28-31 October 2014 the Committee on Environmental Policy extended the mandate of the Task Force for only one year. CEP requested the Secretariat to consider merging the Task Force with another body operating under CEP, the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. The Secretariat was asked to present a proposal to streamline the work, including the advantages and disadvantages of merging the two groups, to the next CEP meeting on 27-30 October 2015.

14. As a response to the request, the Secretariat proposes the two groups to continue to operate with a separate mandate. The Secretariat has updated the TOR for the Joint Task Force and proposes to name it a 'Joint Task Force on environmental statistics and indicators' to better reflect the work undertaken.

15. The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve the updated TOR for the Joint Task Force on environmental statistics and indicators. The proposal will also be presented for approval to the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy to be held on 27-30 October 2015.

(e) Implementation of the System of Environmental-economic Accounting (SEEA) in the UNECE region (outcome of the seminar held on 14-15 October 2015) – for discussion and recommendations

16. The CES plenary session in April 2014 requested the secretariat to organize a seminar on the implementation of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA), jointly with OECD, following the request of member States to provide a forum to share experiences on the SEEA implementation. The seminar is taking place on 14-15 October 2015 in Geneva. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the outcomes of the seminar, including the proposals for future work.

(f) Climate change (outcome of the Expert Forum) – for discussion and recommendations (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/10 by the Steering Group)

17. The CES 2014 plenary session endorsed the *CES Recommendations on climate change related statistics*, and supported organizing regular expert meetings for producers and users of climate change-related statistics with the participation of key organizations involved in the measurement of climate change and related phenomena. CES noted that such meetings would be highly useful for sharing ideas and experience, discussing concepts and measurement issues, and identifying areas for development.

18. UNECE organized an Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics on 2-3 September 2015 in Geneva. The Bureau is invited to discuss the outcome of the Expert Forum, and provide advice for the next steps.

(g) Measuring sustainable development (road map and terms of reference) – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/11 by the Secretariat and./11 Add.1 by the Task Force)

19. In June 2015, the Conference decided on a number of follow-up actions related to the measurement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The actions included launching work on a road map for the development of official statistics for SDG monitoring, and setting up a task force to adjust *the CES Recommendations for measuring sustainable development* to the SDGs and the related targets. The Bureau is invited to discuss how to implement the follow-up actions based on a proposal by the Secretariat, including an outline for the road map and the terms of reference for the Task Force on adjusting CES Recommendations to SDGs.

(h) Innovative working methods used by the High-level group for the modernization of official statistics – for discussion and recommendations (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/12 by HLG-MOS)

20. In October 2014, the Bureau discussed innovative working methods introduced in the activities overseen by the UNECE High-Level Group for the modernization of official statistics (HLG-MOS) and the extent to which these could be applied in other work areas of CES. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to prepare practical guidance on how to apply the new working methods. The Bureau is invited to discuss the guidance provided and advise on implementing these methods of work more widely.

(i) Other issues related to the Statistical Programme

21. Under this agenda item the Secretariat may bring to the attention of the Bureau any other issues related to the Statistical Programme.

(j) UNECE Programme of Work documents – for decision

22. Under this agenda item, the Bureau will be invited to review and approve the planning documents of the Statistics subprogramme prepared in the context of the United Nations secretariat's biennial planning and reporting cycle. These include:

- (a) Statistical Programme for 2016 (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/5) (based on the outcome of discussions on the items above);
- (b) Strategic Framework for 2018-2019 (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/13).

V. GENERIC STATISTICAL LAW FOR EECCA COUNTRIES – *for discussion and recommendations* (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/14 by UNECE, Eurostat and EFTA)

23. UNECE developed, jointly with Eurostat and EFTA, a draft generic statistical law for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)¹. The law was developed as part of a broader UNECE statistical capacity building project financed through the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) 9th tranche. This UNDA project is demand driven and aims to enhance national capacities in EECCA countries to sustainably develop statistics based on international recommendations and findings of Global Assessments of national statistical systems. The EECCA countries asked for developing a model statistical law at a meeting held in Almaty, in December 2014. The work is being done to support further development of the legal and institutional frameworks for official statistics.

24. The Bureau is invited to discuss the draft generic statistical law, and consider its links to other ongoing CES initiatives.

VI. PREPARATION FOR THE CES 2016 PLENARY SESSION

(a) Evaluation of the 63rd plenary session (UNECE) – *for information*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/15 by UNECE)

25. The results of the evaluation questionnaires of the 2015 CES plenary session will be presented for information.

(b) Provisional agenda of the 2016 CES plenary session – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/16 by UNECE)

26. The Bureau is invited to discuss the provisional agenda of the CES plenary session in 2016, including the format of the seminars and substantive discussions, based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

(c) Organization of the 2016 CES seminar on strategic partnerships – *for discussion and recommendations* (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/17 by Canada)

27. The CES plenary session selected this topic for one of the CES 2016 seminars taking into account the results of the survey carried out among the CES members in May 2015 and the recommendation by the CES Bureau. The Bureau is invited to discuss the organization of the seminar based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizer, Canada.

(d) Organization of the 2016 CES half-day seminar on geospatial information services based on official statistics – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/18 by Austria)

28. The CES plenary session selected this topic for the second 2016 CES seminar with a duration of about half a day. The Bureau is invited to discuss the organization of the seminar based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizer, Austria.

¹ The project focuses on 11 countries from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

(e) Organization of the 2016 CES discussion on how to implement the monitoring system for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – for discussion and recommendations (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/19 by UNECE)

29. The Conference asked the CES Bureau to consider the format of the discussion on the third topic selected by the CES 2015 plenary session. The Bureau is invited to discuss that based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

(f) Recommendations on ageing-related statistics to be submitted to the CES 2016 plenary session – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2015/OCT/20 by the Task Force)

30. In February 2013, the Bureau set up a Task Force on Ageing-related Statistics involving statisticians, policymakers and academia to develop recommendations for improving the availability, accessibility and comparability of statistical data in support of ageing-related policymaking in the framework of the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

31. The Bureau is invited to comment on the draft recommendations developed by the Task Force, and decide whether the recommendations can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to present them to the 2016 CES plenary session for endorsement.

VII. PRESENTATION OF UNCTAD'S ACTIVITIES RELATED TO STATISTICS
– for discussion and recommendations

32. The Bureau regularly discusses the work and strategies of international organizations in statistics. A number of organizations have presented their statistical activities over the years, most recently UNEP, WHO and the World Economic Forum.

33. UNCTAD will be invited to present its activities related to statistics for discussion at the Bureau meeting.

VIII. DATES AND VENUE OF THE NEXT CES BUREAU MEETINGS – for decision

34. The Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venue of its next meetings. In June 2015, the Bureau decided that its next meetings will take place on 9-10 February 2016 in Luxembourg and 18-19 October 2016, venue to be decided. The next CES plenary session is scheduled to be held on 27-29 April 2016.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS – for decision

35. Any other topics can be taken up under this agenda item. Furthermore, the Bureau is expected to decide on the papers that will be made publicly available on Internet before the meeting adjourns.