

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development
Third meeting
Geneva, 19-20 April 2007
Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE - WGSSD SUB-GROUP ON COMMONALITIES IN EXISTING
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS**

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Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

1. The objectives of the sub-group on capital are to:
 - (a) define the scope of the sub-group's work – what constitutes a 'sustainable development indicator', how are indicator sets to be selected for review, how are 'commonalities' to be determined;
 - (b) develop classifications/criteria for a review of indicators, their frameworks and their context, which can be used to identify commonalities between indicators used by countries or international organizations to measure or report on sustainable development;
 - (c) identify and consider other existing (or planned) reviews of sustainable development indicators undertaken by national and international organizations, and consider whether the outputs can be used by the sub-group for a review of commonalities;
 - (d) identify gaps in existing review material, where for example there is insufficient detail for the purposes of examining commonalities, or where countries with advanced indicator sets have been overlooked and, where practicable, seek supplementary information;
 - (e) review indicator sets and identify commonalities between them. If possible this could be extended to identify commonalities with indicators explicitly developed using a capital-based approach.

TIMETABLE

2. To avoid duplication of effort, the sub-group should use existing or anticipated review sources wherever possible, rather than undertake potentially duplicative work. The sub-

group's work timetable will be therefore in part determined by when results from ongoing or planned external reviews become available.

3. The sub-group should produce an interim report/presentation for the third meeting of the WGSSD in April 2007, but will continue thereafter and ultimately contribute to relevant chapters of the WGSSD's final report.

MODE OF WORK

4. The sub-group will most likely conduct its work via e-mail and telephone. One or more individuals will be sought to lead the work on each of the objectives listed above. These individuals will accept responsibility for delivering the output associated with the objective. They will be generally expected to work with a group of sub-group members and liaise between them. However, to an extent the objectives will by necessity be undertaken consecutively, rather than concurrently.

OUTPUTS

5. The output of the sub-group will take the form of a paper(s) detailing the background material used, the classifications/criteria identified and applied, the commonalities identified, and the conclusions reached.

PARTICIPATION

6. Participation in the sub-group is open to all members of the WGSSD and to external experts who can make a significant contribution to the sub-group's work. Participation by external experts is by invitation and is subject to the general agreement of the WGSSD members of the sub-group.

7. As of 29 January 2007, the sub-group's members are:

Eric de Brabanter (Luxemburg)
Cecile Dormoy (France)
Pat Fanning (Ireland)
Ingeborg Fiala (Austria)
Stephen Hall (UK)
Julie Hass (Norway)
Leo Koltola (Finland)
Viveka Palm (Sweden)
Peter de Smedt (Belgium)
Pascal Wolf – EUROSTAT

CHAIR'S ROLE

8. The sub-group will be chaired by Stephen Hall from the UK. His role will be to ensure that individuals are found to take forward each of the objectives and to facilitate the work to ensure that the expected output is delivered in time for the April meeting of the WGSSD.

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