

Second Meeting of the 2011/2012 Bureau  
Geneva, Switzerland, 2-3 November 2011

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Item 4(b) of the Provisional  
Agenda

**REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF  
UNODC/UNECE TASK FORCE ON CRIME CLASSIFICATION**

**Prepared by the UNECE secretariat**

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. The Joint UNECE/UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Meeting on Crime Statistics (21-23 October 2008, Vienna) made a proposal to carry out work under the framework of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) within the field of crime classifications to be used for statistical purposes at the international level.
2. The Meeting noted that the European Commission is developing a European crime classification system for statistical purposes. Furthermore, an expert group organized by the United Nations Statistical Division in September 2008 discussed possible development of a crime classification system at a global level. The Meeting observed that any classification system at EU level and other cross-national initiatives should link to the wider global data collection. Participants proposed to establish a task force under the CES to work on a crime classification. The Meeting asked UNODC and UNECE to prepare draft terms of reference for the task force.
3. The June 2009 CES plenary session agreed that work should be carried out on developing a crime classification and requested the CES Bureau and the secretariat to undertake the necessary actions.
4. In October 2009 the CES set up the UNODC/UNECE Task Force on Crime Classification and approved its Terms of Reference, according to which the task force was expected to produce the following outputs:
  - (a) A set of principles on international crime classification systems for statistical use;
  - (b) A case study of selected offences.
5. Between 2009 and 2011 the Task Force produced a report presenting a set of principles for, and framework approach to, the international classification of crimes for statistical purposes. The report was circulated among countries for comments in the Spring of 2011, and then revised following the consultation. The revised report was submitted to the CES

Bureau for review at its meeting in November 2011 (doc. ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/8 and ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/8/Add.1).

6. In its report the Task Force recommended that its mandate be extended with a view to developing, in consultation with CES member States, a full international classification of crimes for statistical purposes, building on the principles and framework presented in the report.

7. The present revised terms of reference for the Task Force were prepared and submitted to the CES Bureau for consideration at its November 2011 meeting.

## **II. MANDATE**

8. The UNODC/UNECE Task force on crime classification reports to the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). It will provide a report on activities and outputs to be evaluated by the CES Bureau at the latest by June 2013.

## **III. OBJECTIVES**

9. The main objectives of the Task Force are:

(a) Further develop the framework classification of crime by elaborating additional case studies of defining and classifying selected offences with a view to developing, in consultation with CES member States, a full international classification of crimes for statistical purposes, building on the set of principles and the framework presented in the report prepared by the Task Force in September 2011;

(b) Collaborating with member States, the European Commission, Eurostat, UNECE and UNODC in the piloting of progressive implementation of an international classification of selected crimes.

## **IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS**

10. The activities of the Task Force will be aimed at producing the following main outputs:

(a) Case studies on refined classifications of selected offences on the basis of country pilot studies; and

(b) A report on the main results of the piloting of the international classification with regard to selected crimes.

## **V. TIMETABLE**

11. The work of the Task Force should be completed by the end of 2012 and be presented at the Joint UNECE/UNODC Meeting on Crime Statistics tentatively scheduled for Spring 2013.

## **VI. METHODS OF WORK**

12. The members of the Task Force are expected to agree on a division of labour and to work mainly via e-mail and telephone conferences. No formal meetings of the Task Force have been planned. However, informal meetings could be possibly organised back-to-back to events in which the majority of Task Force members are expected to participate.

## **VII. MEMBERSHIP**

13. Representatives of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America participate in the Task Force, together with representatives of the following international organizations and institutions: UNECE, UNODC, Eurostat, EU DG-JLS, European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics, Small Arms Survey.

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