

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

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

Item 4 (g) of the Provisional
Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF A TASK FORCE ON
ADJUSTING THE CES RECOMMENDATIONS TO SDG-S**

Prepared by the Secretariat

This paper presents the terms of reference of a Task Force on adjusting the 'CES Recommendations on measuring sustainable development' to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, based on the decision of the CES 2015 Plenary Session. The Bureau approved the terms of reference of the Task Force at its meeting on 21-22 October 2015.

I. BACKGROUND

1. In June 2013, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) endorsed the *CES Recommendations on measuring sustainable development*, which provide countries with a universal measurement framework based on synergies between theoretical concepts and policy needs. When the CES Recommendations were finalised, the discussion about SDGs had just started and the goals and targets were not yet identified. Therefore, **the Conference in 2013 decided that the measurement framework presented in the CES Recommendations will need to be adjusted to the SDGs and targets once these are agreed upon.**

2. The SDGs and targets were adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015. The outcome document on the 2030 sustainable development agenda¹ states in its Article 75 that “the Goals and targets will be followed up and reviewed using **a set of global indicators**. These **will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels** which will be developed by Member States, in addition to the outcomes of work undertaken for the development of the baselines for those targets where national and global baseline data does not yet exist”. The UNECE region will need to develop its own measurement system for SDGs, following the adoption of a global indicator set.

3. Several exercises of matching the SDGs, targets and indicators and the indicator framework in the CES Recommendations have been carried out². The conclusions were that all indicators in the CES framework can be mapped to the SDGs and targets. It is also possible to map all SDGs and targets to the CES framework but this would require slight adjustments to some themes in the framework. Therefore the most efficient and practical

¹ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/L.85&Lang=E

² The UNSC Friends of the Chair Group on broader measures of progress made a mapping of the available indicators, including those from the CES Recommendations, to the draft SDGs and targets in summer 2014. In June 2015, at the CES seminar on response of official statistics to SDGs, two papers presented an outcome of such a mapping: by Statistics Netherlands (ECE/CES/2015/20) and UNECE (ECE/CES/2015/24 and Add.1).

way to develop a feasible architecture for measuring SDGs and targets in the UNECE region would be to adjust the CES framework to SDGs.

4. At its June 2015 plenary session, the **Conference reaffirmed that the CES Recommendations were a good basis for an SDG measurement system in UNECE region. The Conference decided to set up a small task force to adjust the CES Recommendations.** The CES Bureau discussed the Conference's decisions at a short meeting after the 2015 CES plenary session. The Bureau agreed to set up the Task Force and noted the importance of having a very clear task for adjusting the CES framework, keeping its basic structure, and aligning the Task Force's activities with the work of the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDG).

5. The framework for measuring sustainable development in the CES Recommendations provides (1) the themes and dimensions to measure sustainable development, and (2) indicators. The themes and dimensions are independent from the indicators: different indicators could be used to measure the same themes. Therefore, at the first stage, the Task Force will aim to link SDGs and targets with the themes and dimensions in the CES framework, and identify where and how the themes in the CES framework should be adjusted to accommodate SDGs and targets.

6. The global set of indicators developed by IAEG-SDG should be ready by end of November, to be approved by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016. After that, the Task Force can proceed with the work on indicators: consider the global indicator list developed by IAEG-SDG and analyse their suitability for monitoring SDGs in the UNECE region.

7. Furthermore, UNECE Secretariat is currently working on a roadmap for the implementation of SDGs in the region, considering: (i) the implementation setup, (ii) identification of new areas where official statistics need to be developed, (iii) communications strategy, (iv) required data disaggregations, (v) capacity building needs and (vi) collaboration between various international agencies in the region. The Task Force's work will be an important contribution to the roadmap.

II. MANDATE

8. The work of the Task Force is conducted within the framework of CES and its Bureau. The Task Force will be created for 2015-2017 to work in two phases. The outcome of the first phase will be a draft of the adjusted framework to be submitted to the CES Plenary session which will take place in April 2016. The work of the second phase will depend on the outcome and decision of the CES 2016 plenary session.

III. OBJECTIVE

9. The objective of the Task Force will be to adjust the CES framework for measuring and monitoring SDGs. The work should be coordinated with IAEG-SDG and take into account relevant issues raised in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

10. The Task Force will undertake work in two phases: (1) adjusting the themes of the CES framework to the SDGs; (2) considering the suitability of the global indicator list for UNECE region.

11. The following activities will be undertaken during first phase of the work:

(a) Define how the themes and dimensions presented in the CES Recommendations should be adjusted to SDGs and targets;

(b) Map SDGs and targets with the CES framework taking as a starting point the previous mapping exercises prepared for the CES seminar on response of official statistics to SDGs (documents ECE/CES/2015/20, ECE/CES/2015/24 and Add.1) and any other relevant material;

(c) Identify possible gaps and redundancies in the CES framework and/or related indicators based on the above mapping. If needed, also consider other targets/themes not currently in the CES framework and/or SDGs that could be included in the updated CES framework.

(d) Adjust CES framework to the SDGs and the related targets, and draft a guidance note for using the CES framework in the context of SDG monitoring.

12. The output of the first phase will be a draft adjusted CES framework and guidance for using it for measuring and monitoring SDGs.

13. After the completion of the first phase, the Task Force will prepare a work plan and proposal for the second phase of the work focusing on indicators.

V. TIMETABLE

14. The activities of the first phase are planned for the period from autumn 2015 to April 2016, according to the following tentative timetable:

October- November 2015	Agree on a work plan with activities, timing and division of work
November 2015	Define purpose and type of adjusted framework
November - December 2015	Map SDGs and targets with the CES framework, identify possible gaps in the CES framework and decide how to adjust the CES framework
December 2015 – January 2016	Adjust the CES framework and draft guidance for using the CES framework
January 2016	Prepare a draft of the adjusted CES Framework
19 January 2016	Submit the draft to the CES Bureau meeting (9-10 February 2016)

February - March 2016	Finalise and/or revise the adjusted framework based on feedback received, submit the draft adjusted framework to CES plenary session (to be held on 27-29 April 2016)
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May 2016	Develop a work plan for the second stage of the work
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VI. METHODS OF WORK

15. The Task Force will primarily work via email and telephone conferences. Face-to-face meetings may be organized on the occasion of events attended by a significant number of Task Force members.

16. The Task Force will take advantage of the wiki infrastructure available at UNECE for carrying out its activities.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

17. The following countries and international organisations are members of the Task Force: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands (Chair), Sweden, Turkey, United States, Eurostat, and OECD. Some countries from outside the UNECE region may be invited to participate to provide a link to other regions.

18. UNECE acts as Secretariat to the Task Force.

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