ECE/CES/76

STATISTICAL COMMISSION **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Report of the fifty-seventh plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians

(Geneva, 8-10 June 2009)

UNITED NATIONS
New York and Geneva 2009

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

ECE/CES/76

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

1. The fifty-seventh plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) was held on 8-10 June 2009 in Geneva.

A. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by delegates from Albania, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Montenegro, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

3. The European Community was represented by Eurostat and the European Central Bank.

4. The following United Nations agencies were represented: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

5. The following international organizations were represented: European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS STAT), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and World Trade Organization (WTO).

6. The following specialised agencies were represented: Bank for International Settlements (BIS), International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A. Welcome addresses

7. Ms. H. Jeskanen-Sundström, Chairman of the Conference, opened the meeting. Mr. J. Kubiš, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), delivered an opening address.

B. Agenda and procedure

8. Ms. H. Jeskanen-Sundström (Finland) chaired the Conference.

9. The provisional agenda (ECE/CES/75 and Add.1) was adopted.

10. The documentation and presentations considered at the meeting are available on the meeting website at: http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.06.ces.htm

II. MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE'S PARENT BODIES

A. February 2009 session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

11. The representative of the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) informed the Conference about the outcomes of the February 2009 session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

B. March-April 2009 session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/43

12. The Conference was informed about the main outcomes of the sixty-third session of the UNECE, highlighting its implications for the CES.

13. The following outcomes are especially relevant for the CES work programme:

(a) The Commission stressed the importance of high quality and internationally comparative statistics when assessing economic and social developments in countries. In this context, the work undertaken by the Conference on measuring sustainable development was noted and supported by the Commission;

(b) The Commission recommended that, despite the current financial crisis, efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the UNECE region should be maintained;

(c) The Commission emphasised the importance of having accurate migration data and noted the UNECE work in improving the production and comparability of migration statistics;

(d) The importance of gender perspective was stressed. The Commission recommended that UNECE further develop its gender database and that all UNECE normative work should reflect the gender perspective. It is important that the UNECE continue to provide technical assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States and South-East European countries for producing gender disaggregated statistics.

14. The Chair of the CES, Ms. H. Jeskanen-Sundström, contributed to the discussion at the Commission on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The important role of the national statistical offices in the UNECE region in providing statistical information for monitoring and analysis of climate change was emphasized. In this context, the Commission supported the work planned by the CES to explore the degree to which the national statistical offices in the UNECE region are involved in climate change related work and in compiling the greenhouse gas inventories. The Commission also took note of the plans of the CES to explore possible activities relevant to climate change in areas like transport, energy, forestry and housing jointly with other UNECE sectoral committees.

Action to be taken by the Conference:

15. The Conference was informed of the decision of the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) that all Sectoral Committees consider the outcome of the 63rd Commission session. The outcome of the discussions of the Sectoral Committees should then be presented by the Chairpersons of the Sectoral Committees at their respective meetings with EXCOM later in 2009. The Conference requested the UNECE secretariat to follow up on any actions as agreed by the Commission during the course of its work.

III. SEMINAR ON BALANCING PRINCIPLES OF PROFESSIONAL AUTONOMY AND ACCOUNTABILITY WITH THE MANDATE TO PRODUCE POLICY RELEVANT DATA

16. The seminar was organised by Ireland. The seminar considered different aspects of ensuring professional autonomy and accountability and how to find the right balance between independence and relevance of official statistics.

A. Session 1: Relationships between statisticians and policy makers: defining the boundaries of official statistics: maintaining independence while addressing demands

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/20; ECE/CES/2009/21; ECE/CES/2009/22; ECE/CES/2009/23; ECE/CES/2009/38; ECE/CES/2009/40; ECE/CES/2009/42

17. The session was organised by the United Kingdom. The session was based on invited papers by Australia, Canada, Chile, Netherlands, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and a supporting paper by Kyrgyzstan. The session dealt with defining the boundaries of official statistics and relationships between statisticians and policy makers. The general themes of the session covered the role of legislation, different institutional and governance structures, status of chief statisticians in the government, stakeholder relations, professional behaviour (code of practice), statistical programming and reporting, nature of funding, release practices, and outsourcing of delivery in ensuring both independence and relevance of official statistics.

18. The first part of the discussion focused on boundaries of official statistics and considered how to determine these boundaries, how to build public trust in official statistics, and explain to users the special status of official statistics vis-à-vis the increasingly available non-official data.

19. The following points were made in the discussion:

(a) The concept of official statistics is constantly developing. Therefore, identifying what is measured and how, for what purpose and who does the measuring may help to delimit its boundaries;

(b) An approved statistical programme can be used to define the boundaries of official statistics and to determine which information is required in the national interest;

(c) For official statistics, the level of quality assurance and adherence to international standards is an important concern: this may not always be the case with other statistical producers;

(d) Some unofficial statistics produced by certain international organizations, which do not comply with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, can be given disproportionate media attention, and can replace official statistics as a basis for decision making. It is a challenge to explain to users the quality advantages of official statistics;

(e) Responsiveness is very important to users and sometimes non-official sources may be more responsive to emerging needs.

20. The second part of the discussion dealt with relationships between statisticians and policy makers: achieving the right balance between independence and relevance, the role of different governance structures in ensuring independence and addressing demands, and the influence of users on the statistical work programme and priority setting.

21. The following points were made in the discussion:

(a) There is a need to provide statistical education to politicians, and to explain the nature and rules of official statistics;

(b) There is potential for tension between maintaining independence and ensuring relevance. This can be avoided with a combination of appropriate legislation and solid practices regarding the relationships between elected officials and statisticians to guarantee the independence of the national statistical office. Use of international standards, such as the Fundamental Principles and EU Code of Practice can help to find the right balance, where tensions do exist;

(c) It is important to think in the longer term and to identify the information needs of policy makers pro-actively. A close relationship between statisticians and policy makers can help to enhance the relevance of data. There should be a platform for discussion with policy makers, for example through stakeholder networks, user councils, etc.

22. In conclusion, the Session Organiser highlighted that an important criteria for defining official statistics is whether it is based on recognized standards and guidelines, with an emphasis on comparability over time and space. A good planning process that takes user needs into account can help maintain relevance for policy makers and for other stakeholders. There is a need to engage stakeholders in order to arrive at a common view of their statistical requirements, and to be flexible to respond to new needs. The role of the chief statistician in government is very important in this context.

B. Session 2: Beyond the production of official statistics: creating synergies, avoiding conflict

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/19; ECE/CES/2009/24; ECE/CES/2009/25; ECE/CES/2009/39

23. The session was organised by Austria. The session was based on invited papers by Latvia, Norway and UNECE, and a supporting paper by Switzerland.

24. The discussion considered issues regarding activities on the boundaries of official statistics. The Conference discussed the impact of carrying out research, forecasting and policy analyses, and the impact of errors and data revisions on credibility and public perception of statistical organizations. Furthermore, the applicability of the Fundamental Principles to research work done by statistical organizations and in cooperation with non-statistical organizations, and issues related to the management of administrative registers by statistical organizations were considered.

25. Examples of different non-statistical activities were given, highlighting the efficiencies within government and benefits to the statistical organizations from being involved in these activities. It was also noted that there are various borderline cases, for example joint data collection systems for statistical and non-statistical purposes. The importance of a strict separation of statistical and non-statistical work was stressed, as well as the desirability of an explicit legal basis for the non-statistical tasks. Decisions on the possible engagement in non-statistical tasks have to be guided by the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The statistical organization has to consider under which conditions such activities can be undertaken, taking into account the associated gains and risks.

C. Session 3: Accountability "beyond the budget": measuring and addressing public expectations

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/26; ECE/CES/2009/27; ECE/CES/2009/28

26. The session was organised by France. The session was based on invited papers by Australia, Bulgaria and Sweden. The discussion focused on the following three main points: the need for a mechanism to identify user expectations, performance evaluation mechanisms, and administrative accountability of statistical offices as public organizations.

27. The following points were made in the discussion:

(a) Administrative accountability often focuses on issues and processes that are very different from statistical professional accountability;

(b) When producing statistical data that are financed by a customer, the statistical office should remain independent concerning the choice of methodology and the publication of results, even when these may not fit the agenda of the customer;

(c) The governing bodies coordinating statistics have their role in ensuring accountability;

(d) Statistical offices have to consider how to address public expectations to counter the increasing possibilities for customers to choose alternative suppliers of statistics. Institutional procedures need to be set up for identifying and meeting emerging demands.

28. In conclusion, the Session Organiser pointed out that there have been changes in recent years to improve accountability of statistical offices, but this has a cost in terms of human resources. Accountability of the office to different groups needs to be balanced. Improved accountability can help to boost independence.

D. Session 4: General discussion and conclusions

29. The final session contained a general discussion and conclusions led by the Seminar Chair. The following points were raised as a summary of the discussion:

(a) There is no consensus on a precise boundary for official statistics. A broad definition would cover all relevant statistical information produced by public authorities. A narrower focus would confine the coverage to, for example, statistics produced by National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) or produced under statistical legislation, or subject to a quality assessment process;

(b) Proper legislation and well established practice of non-interference by politicians can ensure that independence and relevance are both achieved without tension. In other circumstances, there may to some extent be a trade-off or tension between maintaining full independence and ensuring that statistics are relevant. Statistical agencies must be pro-active in bridging any divide between them and policy makers. Statistical legislation and support mechanisms, such as user councils, can be important in achieving the right balance;

(c) Statistical organizations can have responsibilities beyond producing official statistics: these tasks have to be carefully managed to avoid conflict with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. There should be a clear separation of statistical and non-statistical work, with explicit legal bases for each;

(d) Three forms of accountability can be identified: administrative, professional and democratic. All are important and must be addressed. What would be the desirable institutional setup for direct accountability of NSOs is worth further discussion. Reporting arrangements of a statistical organization can take several forms, and there is a clear need for active dialogue with stakeholders and users to maintain accountability;

(e) Professionalism and a positive public image are essential to maintain trust. The key role of media in shaping the public image of a statistical office was highlighted.

30. The Conference welcomed the rich debates during the seminar that provided valuable insights into this very important topic for the Heads of NSOs.

Action to be taken by the Conference:

31. The Conference recommended that a concrete output of the seminar (e.g. Proceedings) should be prepared. The Conference also requested the CES Bureau and the secretariat to follow up on any actions highlighted at the seminar.

IV. SEMINAR ON STRATEGIC ISSUES IN BUSINESS STATISTICS

32. This seminar was organised by Canada and Eurostat. The seminar focused on the two main challenges that business statistics currently is and will continue to be confronted with: the need to keep on reducing the statistical burden on enterprises and, at the same time, the necessity to provide better statistics on economic and structural changes linked to the process of globalisation.

A. Session 1: Reducing respondent burden

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/13; ECE/CES/2009/14; ECE/CES/2009/15; ECE/CES/2009/29; ECE/CES/2009/30; ECE/CES/2009/31; ECE/CES/2009/35; ECE/CES/2009/36; ECE/CES/2009/37

33. The session was organised by Slovenia. The session was based on invited papers by Eurostat, Portugal, Slovenia, and supporting papers by Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, France, Germany and Lithuania.

34. The session focused on current attempts by statistical agencies and international organizations to further reduce response burden. In addition to addressing issues of the more effective use of business registers and administrative data, the session also discussed the need to differentiate between actual and perceived response burden; to recognise a trade-off between response burden and quality of statistics; and to evaluate costs and benefits of using administrative data as a substitute for surveys.

35. The following points were made in the discussion:

(a) The political pressure to reduce respondent burden is high. However, since NSOs have been working in this direction for several years, the room for a further tangible reduction might be rather limited;

(b) In order to overcome the financial and economic crisis as quickly as possible, there is an evident need for timely and reliable official statistics. In this context, the tension between the increasing demand for statistics and the demand to reduce response burden has become ever more present. Moreover, statistical offices have to compete with commercial data providers who can pay for data collections or provide another return to respondents;

(c) Eurostat has evaluated the development of response burden over time in a number of the European Union (EU) countries. But no clear picture emerged: the measured burden is not always comparable across countries and the assessment process itself is a resource-intensive and costly procedure;

(d) Often the major problem is not the actual but the perceived burden. In this respect, the communication with respondent enterprises is very important. NSOs need to communicate the benefits of statistics better, in particular to the small- and medium-sized enterprises;

(e) Understanding business routines of enterprises and wider use of modern methods and Information Technology (IT) systems, such as electronic data reporting, prove to be helpful in reducing perceived burden;

(f) Using integrated data collection systems where enterprises provide data for different legal obligations on a single occasion may reduce both actual and perceived burden and improve timeliness and consistency of data;

(g) The use of administrative sources generally reduces response burden, but it has associated risks. Administrative data cannot completely replace surveys: in some areas administrative data do not exist, some definitions and requirements may not be in line with the statistical ones; changes in or suppression of administrative sources are rarely coordinated with the NSOs and data from administrative sources may disappear when they are no longer needed by the administrative entity collecting it. Furthermore, administrative data are not always as timely as survey data, which creates a need for modelling and forecasting. Adapting to the administrative source in some cases may be more costly than to use a survey.

36. The Session Organiser concluded the session with the following remarks:

(a) Reduction of response burden is not a one-off action but a continuous process;

(b) Significant progress has already been made by the statistical community in reducing the burden and additional attempts to reduce the burden may not always be rational;

(c) Use of data from administrative sources needs to be coordinated between the NSO and the institution maintaining the administrative data in order to promote the adaptation of concepts and to ensure the stability and continuity of the data. NSOs should develop service agreements and partnerships with stakeholders and producers of administrative data to reduce as much as possible the associated vulnerabilities;

(d) There is a need to improve communication between statisticians, respondents and customers to better explain the benefits of statistics and reduce the perceived burden;

(e) Burden reduction should not be addressed without evaluating its impact on required statistical resources and on quality of data;

(f) Demands for new statistics should be evaluated carefully before being accepted into the statistical programme.

B. Session 2: Emerging areas, new developments and user needs in business statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/16; ECE/CES/2009/17; ECE/CES/2009/18; ECE/CES/2009/32; ECE/CES/2009/33; ECE/CES/2009/34; ECE/CES/2009/41

37. The session was organised by France. Mr. T. Mesenbourg (United States (U.S.) Census Bureau) delivered a keynote speech. The session was based on invited papers by Norway, Spain, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (U.S. BEA), and supporting papers by Albania, Brazil, Netherlands and OECD.

38. The keynote address "Issues and Challenges in Business Statistics" stressed that the financial crisis has focused public attention on economic measurement. It has also allowed, in some cases, to obtain additional funding for the production of more timely statistical information. New products/statistics must be responsive to policymakers needs. Therefore, the NSO's may have a unique opportunity to improve official business statistics. To advance in this direction, NSOs should:

(a) Stimulate innovation by promoting active and critical research programmes that utilize both NSO and external researchers;

(b) Better utilize expertise from the business, research and policy making communities to identify important trends and set measurement priorities;

(c) Establish frameworks and methods for prioritizing statistical programmes.

39. The rest of the session dealt with the strategic challenges of collecting information from businesses on the structure and activities of multinational enterprises, and on business and innovation strategies and intangible assets (e.g. knowledge, 'goodwill'). The session also explored the attempts to measure domestic outsourcing and imported intermediate inputs based on the Capital, Labour, Energy, Materials, Services and Output (KLEMS) methodology.

40. In the discussion, the following points were made:

(a) Norway's experience in using administrative data and data from existing surveys for establishing statistics on the structure and activities of the foreign-controlled multi-national enterprises (MNEs) provides a useful guidance for other NSOs;

(b) The main users of the inward foreign-affiliate trade statistics (FATS) are researchers and, in some cases, central banks as statistics on FATS help to understand the importance of globalization and the role of multinational companies in the economic development of the country;

(c) If the survey costs for determining the ultimate controlling institutional unit (UCI) are high, and the administrative sources are not flexible enough to include such information among the obligatory variables, the feasibility of using commercial data providers needs to be checked;

(d) Concerns about limiting response burden and improving consistency of data collection also apply to the production of innovation and Research and Development (R&D) statistics. Using the same questionnaire repeatedly and maintaining close contacts with respondents can help to ensure consistency of data;

(e) The analysis of collected microdata is essential for improving the quality of statistics on innovation and R&D. Best results could be expected if a specialized team (for example, of economists and engineers) works on the questionnaires. Due attention is to be paid to the statistical unit used. The stratification of data based on geography and employment would make it possible to obtain regionalised results;

(f) Outsourcing can be seen as a hidden type of innovation, since firms try to use outsourcing to increase specialization of production and to minimize costs;

(g) The attempt by the U.S. BEA to measure domestic outsourcing and imported intermediate inputs, using a large sample of economic census data and avoiding direct questioning of respondents, can be a possible solution to limit response burden while producing new statistics.

41. The Session Organiser concluded the session with the following points:

(a) Most of the FATS data can be obtained by combining and improving administrative data but an ad-hoc methodology needs to be used;

(b) There is a need for a broader concept of innovation in order to cover all industries, including marketing and organizational innovation;

(c) Indirect measure from the national accounts can shed light on the development of intermediate imports and the growth of domestic outsourcing.

C. Conclusions of the seminar

42. The discussion was summarised by the following points:

(a) The financial crisis has focused public attention on measurement of economic phenomena. This may provide an opportunity to improve business statistics to be more responsive to policymakers' needs;

(b) New demands for statistics should be evaluated carefully, taking into account the need to improve quality and provide more details in existing statistics, and the considerations of response burden;

(c) The reduction of response burden is a continuous process. Although significant progress has been made over recent years, there is in many countries a need and a political pressure to continue efforts to further reduce the respondent burden on businesses. However, burden reduction should not be undertaken without evaluating its impact on required statistical resources and on quality of data;

(d) Statistical offices must also address the perceived respondent burden, e.g. through better communication with respondents;

(e) Using administrative sources for lowering the response burden may not always be feasible because of different limitations (quality or existence of administrative sources, legal limitations, etc.). There is a wealth of good experiences available with integrating data from different sources. It would be useful to document these good practices together with the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches;

(f) There is a growing demand for the statistical offices to provide business microdata for analysis and research purposes, which statistical offices can do without compromising confidentiality;

(g) When meeting user demands of new business statistics, statistical offices are faced with a trade-off between the quality attributes: timeliness and reliability. The CES, in its future work, should consider addressing the issue and the problems involved, including the intensified competition between official statistics and commercial data providers.

Action to be taken by the Conference:

43. The Conference welcomed the rich debates during the seminar and requested the secretariat and the CES Bureau to follow-up on any points as appropriate during the course of their work.

V. COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE REGION

A. Outcomes of the in-depth reviews by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians held in October 2008 and February 2009

1. Housing statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/4 and Add.1

44. The outcomes of the in-depth review of housing statistics carried out by the Bureau in February 2009, and the results of the survey on housing statistics carried out by the secretariat in April-May 2009 were presented to the Conference.

45. Based on the survey results, the Conference considered priority areas of housing statistics where future work might be undertaken at international level. The following points were made in the discussion:

(a) Statisticians should use the coming population and housing census round for obtaining the maximum possible data on housing;

(b) A possible priority in housing statistics is the impact of the economic crisis on various aspects of housing;

(c) One of the main priorities is residential property prices;

(d) It is necessary to address old priorities rather than identify new ones.

Action to be taken by the Conference:

46. The Bureau was requested to analyse at its October 2009 meeting the results of the survey and the countries' comments made during the discussion at the CES plenary session, decide on follow-up actions as appropriate, and report back to the Conference in June 2010.

2. Agriculture statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/5

47. The outcomes of the in-depth review of agriculture statistics carried out by the Bureau in October 2008 and of a follow-up discussion in February 2009 were presented to the Conference. The in-depth review paper was circulated to the CES members for written comments in January 2009. The consultation with countries showed the need for more international coordination in agricultural statistics.

Action to be taken by the Conference:

48. The Conference agreed that Eurostat prepare the terms of reference for future work on agricultural statistics in the UNECE region, including setting up a "light" Task Force for this purpose. The Conference requested the secretariat and the CES Bureau to follow up with actions as appropriate.

3. Statistics on labour cost

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/6

49. The outcomes of the in-depth review of statistics on labour cost carried out by the Bureau in October 2008 and of a follow-up discussion in February 2009 were presented to the Conference. It was pointed out that some of the concerns highlighted in the paper have already been addressed by the revised recommendations on working time, adopted by the XVIII International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) that took place after the in-depth review by the Bureau was carried out.

Action to be taken by the Conference:

50. The Conference requested the Bureau to follow up on the activities undertaken by international organizations in this area and review the topic in the future if necessary.

B. In-depth review of statistical dissemination, communication and publications

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/7

51. The Conference discussed challenges in the area of statistical dissemination, communication and publications, based on a paper prepared by the Steering Group on Statistical Dissemination and Communication and the UNECE secretariat. The outcomes of the discussion will serve as input to the in-depth review by the CES Bureau in October 2009.

52. The following issues were raised during the discussion:

(a) Statistical offices are gradually moving away from printed publications. However, it is sometimes a good idea to also maintain the paper publications. Short, cross-cutting and bi-lingual publications, with more emphasis on graphics, are becoming increasingly popular with users. Combining data with economic analyses has helped to make statistics more attractive and popular in some countries;

(b) The impact and value for money of the new visualisation tools should be better assessed. They may currently focus too much on data but should also allow to communicate differences in data quality;

(c) More work is needed on measuring the impact of different communication practices. User feedback suggests that improving communication should be a priority for many statistical organizations, particularly in the current financial crisis. More effort is needed to reach mainstream users such as media and policy makers, not just “hard-to-reach” groups. Increasing competition from other data producers means that there is an increasing need to professionalise communication of statistical offices;

(d) The discussion on dissemination practices in the paper was too focused on Millennium Development Goals and should be widened;

(e) Further work is needed to make data more understandable and easier to find and access by taking advantage of the new developments in web search technology. The use of Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) and other metadata standards is important in this respect;

(f) Good communication practices in areas such as pre-release access, the use of release calendars, and dealing with erroneous use and misunderstandings are vital to improve the credibility and independence of statistical organizations;

(g) There are many issues in this area and a lot can be done at national and international levels to improve statistical dissemination and communication. It will be important to prioritize the work and avoid overlaps with other groups working in related areas.

Action to be taken by the Conference:

53. The Conference supported the work of the Steering Group and welcomed the rich discussion under this agenda item that provided useful input to the in-depth review of statistical dissemination, communication and publications to be carried out by the CES Bureau in October 2009. A new version of the paper will be prepared for that purpose by the Steering Group and the UNECE secretariat, incorporating the inputs from the discussion.

VI. PRINCIPLES ON CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY ASPECTS OF STATISTICAL DATA INTEGRATION

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/3, Rev.1 and Add.1

54. The *Principles and Guidelines on Confidentiality Aspects of Data Integration Undertaken for Statistical or Related Research Purposes* were circulated to countries for written consultation in April 2009. Most countries supported the adoption of the Principles, while some countries asked for further clarification on certain points. The revised version of the document (ECE/CES/2009/3 Rev.) reflects the comments received.

55. The complexity of developing the Principles and Guidelines was highlighted. There is a variety of legislative and cultural environments and data are often not primarily collected for statistical purposes. Some countries stressed that the document has an advisory character based on best practices and has no legal basis. It would be impossible to draft a legalistic text that would conform to the specific constraints of all national legal frameworks. Other countries expressed concern that these principles might assume a quasi-legal status, particularly in countries with weak statistical legislation, or may be manipulated by the media or others to suit a particular agenda.

Action to be taken by the Conference:

56. The Conference noted the concerns of Poland related to possible misinterpretations of the Guidelines, especially by external researchers (concerning paragraph 5(i)) and by the authorities outside the national statistical organization (Principle 2, paragraph 12 (a)). Poland made a proposal to remove from the end of paragraph 12 (a) the words "and/or by an authority outside the NSO" which would considerably reduce the related concerns.

57. The Conference endorsed the *Principles and Guidelines on Confidentiality Aspects of Data Integration Undertaken for Statistical or Related Research Purposes*, as provided in document ECE/CES/2009/3 Rev. 1, subject to the correction above proposed by Poland. The Conference agreed that the Guidelines be tested within the next two years. The Conference will review the Guidelines in 2011. The countries were invited to inform the secretariat about any problems encountered with the implementation of the Guidelines.

VII. GUIDELINES ON THE USE AND DISSEMINATION OF DATA ON INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRATION TO FACILITATE THEIR USE TO IMPROVE EMIGRATION DATA OF SENDING COUNTRIES

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/10, Add.1 and Add.2, ECE/CES/2009/11

58. The Conference endorsed the *Guidelines on the Use and Dissemination of Data on International Immigration to Facilitate their Use to Improve Emigration Data of Sending Countries,* subject to the amendments as outlined in document ECE/CES/2009/10 Add.2.

VIII. MANUAL ON VICTIMIZATION SURVEYS

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/12, Add.1 and Add.2

59. The Conference endorsed the *Manual on Victimization Surveys*, subject to the amendments as outlined in document ECE/CES/2009/12 Add.2, and to the comments made during the discussion.

60. The Conference noted the excellent cooperation between UNECE, Eurostat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in developing the Manual. The Conference agreed that further work be carried out on developing a crime classification and requested the CES Bureau and the secretariat to undertake the necessary actions.

IX. PROGRESS REPORTS

A. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme: report on 2008 and plans for 2009

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/44

61. The Conference welcomed the work undertaken by the UNECE Statistical Division in implementing the Statistical Programmes for 2008 and 2009, and endorsed the plans for the rest of 2009.

B. Reports of the Conference of European Statisticians Bureau meetings, Terms of Reference of the Teams of Specialists working under the Conference of European Statisticians

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/1, ECE/CES/2009/2 and Add.1

62. The Conference approved the activities undertaken under the UNECE Statistical Programme 2009, and endorsed the Terms of Reference of the CES Steering Groups, Task Forces, Groups of Experts and Organizing Committees created by the CES Bureau. The Conference also endorsed the list of meetings planned to be organised from June 2009 to June 2010, as provided in document ECE/CES/2009/2 Add.1. The documents are presented as an Annex to the current Report of the 2009 plenary session of the Conference.

X. SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR SEMINARS TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/45 and Add.1

63. The UNECE carried out a survey in May 2009 among the members of the Conference to identify the topics for seminars to take place during the CES 2010 plenary session. Taking into account the survey results and the recommendation by the Bureau, the following topics were selected for the seminars in 2010:

A. The impact of the global crises on statistical systems

Seminar organizers: IMF, OECD.
Session organizer: Netherlands.
Proposed papers: Bulgaria, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, World Trade Organization.

B. Spatial statistics / Role of a spatial dimension in official statistics

Seminar organizers: Eurostat and Mexico.
Session organizer: Austria, Brazil, United States, Eurostat.
Proposed papers: Australia, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, United States, UNIDO.

Action to be taken:

64. The secretariat will distribute an electronic copy of the proposal for the 2010 seminar topics (document ECE/CES/2009/45 Add.1) to allow countries to consult their offices for possible contributions.

65. The Seminar Organisers will invite selected countries and organizations to prepare papers for the seminars to provide basis for discussion.

66. The Conference requested the CES Bureau and the secretariat to follow up on the organization of the two seminars in 2010.

XI. ELECTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS BUREAU

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/8

67. For the 2009/10 and 2010/11 term of the office, based on the proposal put forward by Ms. K. Wallman, the most senior previous Chair of the Conference, the Conference elected:

Ms. H. Jeskanen-Sundström (Finland) as a Chairperson,

and the following Vice-Chairpersons of the Bureau:

Mr. B. Pink (Australia)
Mr. E. Pereira Nunes (Brazil)

Mr. M. Sheikh (Canada)
Mr. G. O'Hanlon (Ireland)
Mr. O. Olsen (Norway)
Ms. I. Krizman (Slovenia)
Mr. O. Osaulenko (Ukraine)

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Organization of the meetings of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

Documentation: ECE/CES/2009/9

68. The Conference decided to temporarily suspend points 12 (a), (b) and (c) concerning the CES Bureau meetings of the *Rules governing the work of the Conference and the Bureau* (ECE/CES/2007/8);

69. From October 2009 until October 2011, the CES Bureau meetings will take place with the following timing:

(a) A two-day meeting in autumn (preferably October-November);

(b) A one-day meeting back-to-back with the CES plenary session in June; and

(c) A short meeting during the UN Statistical Commission session in February/March in New York, if necessary.

70. In October 2011, the Bureau will evaluate the new frequency and timing of the CES Bureau meetings and will decide whether to propose to the Conference to change the Rules in this respect.

B. Honouring the memory of Mr. S. Longva; tribute to Mr. H. Brüngger

71. At the opening of the Conference, the Conference observed a one minute silence in honour of Mr. S. Longva, a former Chairman of the Conference and long-standing supporter and contributor to the work of the Conference.

72. The Conference thanked Mr. H. Brüngger, on the occasion of his retirement, for his contribution over the years to the work of the international statistical community and his dedication to strengthening the role of official statistics.

C. Next plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians

73. The 2010 plenary session of the Conference will take place during the week of 7-11 June 2010 in Paris, back-to-back with the meeting of the OECD Statistics Committee.

D. Announcement about the next International Association for Official Statistics Conference

74. Conference members were invited to the next International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) Conference to be held in Santiago, Chile, on 20-22 October 2010. The programme will focus on official statistics and the environment. Further information is available on the websites of the Statistical Office of Chile and the IAOS.

[ENGLISH ONLY]

ANNEX

UNECE Statistical Programme.
TOR of the Steering Groups, Task Forces, and Organizing Committees working under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians.
List of meetings planned to be organised from June 2009 to June 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. LIST OF ACTIVITIES OF THE UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME 2009

A. Coordination of international statistical work in the UNECE region

Activity 1.1: Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA) – DISA brings together the statistical programmes of work of about 30 international agencies active in the UNECE region.
Activity 1.2: Secretariat support for the work of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its Bureau – CES is one of the UNECE Sectoral Committees.
Activity 1.3: Monitoring the implementation of and contributing to development of principles for official statistics - monitor the adherence to, and advocate for, the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in UNECE member countries, with special focus on countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and South-East European (SEE) countries.
Activity 1.4: Coordination of technical cooperation in Central Asia - UNECE coordinates the technical cooperation in statistics carried out by international and national organizations in the Central Asian countries.

B. Collection, processing and dissemination of macroeconomic statistics

Activity 2.1: Economic data collection, analysis and advice (Economic database) - collect, process and publish economic statistics for the UNECE member countries in a publicly available database with online access via English and Russian interfaces.

C. Collection, processing and dissemination of social and demographic statistics

Activity 3.1: Gender statistics database - maintain, update and improve the UNECE Gender Statistics Database.
Activity 3.2: Millennium Development Goals (MDG) database - maintain a user-friendly regional repository of data to facilitate monitoring of the progress towards the goals specified in the Millennium Declaration in countries of Central Asia and East and South-East Europe.

D. Support for processing and dissemination of statistics

Activity 4.1: Infrastructure for processing and disseminating statistical data - maintain and develop the database infrastructure for processing and dissemination of statistical data.
Activity 4.2: Dissemination of information and promotion of statistical activities - provide information about the UNECE Statistical Division’s activities for promotional purposes.
Activity 4.3: Support to external users of the statistical information disseminated by UNECE.
Activity 4.4: Statistical profiles of UNECE member countries - publication of statistical country profiles prepared largely on the basis of the UNECE statistical database.
Activity 4.5: UNData – contribution by UNECE of data and methodological know-how to the portal of United Nations system databases.

E. Methodological work in economic statistics

***Activity 5.1: National accounts* -** promote the implementation of the System of National Accounts in UNECE member countries with an emphasis on the SEE and CIS countries.
***Activity 5.2: Impact of globalization on national accounts* -** review the main distortions in national accounts caused by the globalization of economies and develop guidelines to deal with the distortions and improve the quality of the accounts.
Activity 5.3: Price statistics - support development and implementation of internationally accepted standards and practices in price statistics, particularly in the SEE and CIS countries.
***Activity 5.4: Business registers* -** support development and implementation of internationally accepted standards in the area of statistical business registers, particularly in the SEE and CIS countries.
***Activity 5.5: Short-term statistics* -** support development and implementation of internationally accepted standards, norms and best practices in the field of short-term statistics with special focus on the SEE and CIS countries.

F. Methodological work in social and demographic statistics

***Activity 6.1: Population and housing censuses* -** promote the implementation of the new CES Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and support countries in preparations for the next population and housing census.
***Activity 6.2: Migration statistics* -** contribute to the improvement of the quality and availability of statistics on international migration.
Activity 6.3: Gender statistics - methodological work on gender statistics.
***Activity 6.4: Health statistics* -** improvement of the comparability of health status statistics in the UNECE region.
***Activity 6.5: Crime and justice statistics* -** preparation of guidelines for comparable crime and justice statistics based on victimization surveys in the UNECE region.
***Activity 6.6: Measurement of quality of employment* -** contribute to the development of methodologies of measuring various aspects related to labour conditions.
Activity 6.7: Measurement of volunteer work - enhance and promote comparability of methods used to measure volunteer work.
Activity 6.8: Families and households – improve measurement of new forms of families and households and develop common survey modules for their measurement.
***Activity 6.9: Indicators related to the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration* -** contribute to the monitoring of progress towards achievement of the goals specified in the Millennium Declaration in SEE and CIS countries
Activity 6.10: Statistics on income, living conditions and poverty - provide secretariat support to the preparation of practical guidelines on the implementation of the Canberra Group Handbook on measurement of household income.

G. Methodological work in environment and sustainable development statistics

***Activity 7.1: Sustainable development statistics* -** provide secretariat support to the work on the conceptual development of the capital approach in designing indicator sets in the area of sustainable development.

Activity 7.2: Environmental indicators (joint activity with the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division) - work on methodological issues of environmental indicators in cooperation with the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment.
Activity 7.3: Statistics related to climate change - promote the involvement of official statistics in the area of climate change, in particular concerning emission inventories.

H. Methodological work on cross-cutting issues of official statistics

Activity 8.1: Management of statistical information systems (MSIS) - provide a forum for exchange of experiences and facilitate implementation of standards and recommendations in the field of statistical data processing.
Activity 8.2: Statistical data editing - enhance harmonization of methods and concepts, and exchanging experience in issues related to data quality control at the collection phase.
Activity 8.3: Statistical confidentiality and access to microdata - enhance international cooperation, harmonization of methods and exchange of experience in the area of statistical confidentiality.
Activity 8.4: Statistical metadata - facilitate harmonization of data models and structures for statistical metadata.
Activity 8.5: Dissemination of statistical information - promote good practices in dissemination of statistical information by national statistical offices.
Activity 8.6: Human resources development in statistical offices **-** facilitate the exchange of experience and development of good practices in the area of human resources management and training in statistical offices.

I. Technical assistance to UNECE member countries

Activity 9.1: Statistical capacity building in SEE and CIS countries **-** multi-annual statistical capacity building in CIS and SEE countries.
Activity 9.2: Short-term technical cooperation **-** specific advisory services in statistics to SEE and CIS countries.
Activity 9.3: Planned technical assistance projects subject to availability of external funding: development of statistics on international migration, violence against women, national accounts, short-term statistics, price indices, environmental indicators, business registers, and on improved statistical literacy and dissemination databases.

II. STEERING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS

Terms of Reference

The Steering Group on Gender Statistics was set up in 2005. New terms of reference were approved by the CES Bureau in February 2008 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2008/FEB/16)

A. Background

1. UNECE has a long history of being active in the area of gender statistics.

2. A Steering Group on Gender Statistics was created by the Bureau in February 2005 (CES/BUR.2005/31). Together with the SG, three Task Forces were set up: the Task Force on Gender-Sensitisation Training for Statisticians, the Task Force on Violence against Women and the Task Force on Time Use Surveys (the latter completed its work in 2006). Since their inception, the groups have been working toward their individual objectives and have produced outputs in accordance with their ToR (see Progress Reports presented at the October 2007 Meeting of the Bureau).

3. At the 2004 Work Session on Gender Statistics and reiterated at the 2006 Work Session on Gender Statistics, it was proposed that the future CES work on gender statistics be directed toward:

(a) The promotion of gender statistics training for all statisticians;

(b) Developing a common set of harmonized indicators and survey instrument to measure gender-based violence.

4. The Steering Group and Task Forces will serve as the vehicle to support the UNECE and its partner organizations, in carrying out this work on gender statistics.

5. In October 2007, the Bureau made an in-depth review of gender statistics. The Bureau also reviewed the program of work of the Steering Group on Gender Statistics, the Task Force on Gender-Sensitisation Training for Statisticians, and the Task Force on Violence against Women. The Bureau noted that

> *"there is a danger that the work on these issues is considered to be biased; sometimes these groups are perceived to be a body of women working for women, there is no clear border between the advocacy work and impartial provision of data; such an image does not work in favour of the activities; (and that) the language/terminology has to be clarified in order to transfer the right message, terms like 'engendering', 'gender sensitisation', 'gender focal point' do not say anything to people who are outside the circle of experts dealing with gender statistics" (ECE/CES/BUR.2007/OCT/18, page 5).*

6. The Bureau requested the groups to revise the terms of reference to address the concerns and comments made during the Meeting. The new terms of reference are presented below.

B. Objective of the work

7. The main role of the Steering Group on Gender Statistics (SG) is to coordinate the CES work on gender statistics. The group also has an advisory role in the organization of CES meetings and workshops on gender statistics. In their work, the groups will promote the usage of impartial terminology for gender statistics within the UNECE region and beyond.

C. Tasks

8. Specific tasks of the Steering Group include the following:

(a) To coordinate the work of the CES Task Forces related to gender statistics and provide advice as necessary;

(b) To provide advisory services for the technical cooperation activities of the UNECE in the area of gender statistics;

(c) To plan future UNECE meetings and workshops in the field of gender statistics, possibly in collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, World Bank and others.

D. Outputs

9. The main outputs of the Steering Group will be:

(a) A detailed agenda for the CES Work Session on Gender Statistics in 2010;

(b) A work programme for gender statistics in 2010;

(c) Work programmes for other future meetings.

E. Membership

10. The Steering Group will include representatives from Ireland, the Netherlands, Serbia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and UNECE.

F. Meetings of the Steering Group

11. The Steering Group will work mainly using e-mail consultations and teleconferences. The group may also meet in conjunction with the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics.

G. Time frame

12. The work defined by the Steering Group in relation to the coordination of the overall goals on gender statistics is on-going. The ToR will be reviewed by the Bureau in 2010.

III. STEERING GROUP ON STATISTICAL METADATA

Terms of Reference

Approved by the Bureau in October 2007 (document CES/BUR/2007/OCT/9 rev.1) and by the UNECE Executive Committee in February 2008 (ECE/EX/2008/L.2)

A. Background

13. The Bureau considered, in February 2007, a progress report of the work on statistical metadata, and particularly the progress achieved on the first release of the Common Metadata

Framework[1] (CMF). This work was steered by a Task Force established in 2004[2]. (Information on further progress in developing the CMF after the February 2007 Bureau meeting is provided in Annex.)

14. The aim of the CMF is to provide guidance to national statistical offices in choosing the right standards, models and approaches in developing their metadata systems. It is a living repository of knowledge and good practices related to statistical metadata. It requires continuous maintenance and improvement so that is relevant to the needs of national statistical offices.

15. The Bureau decided to create a Steering Group on Statistical Metadata (METIS) and asked the secretariat to prepare draft Terms of Reference.

B. Objectives of the Steering Group

16. The focus of the work is on identifying good practices and offering guidance to experts from national statistical offices to existing metadata related standards, in harmony with other initiatives such as SDMX. The objectives of the Steering Group are to:

(a) Promote the implementation of metadata systems by developing advocacy targeting the senior management level and subject-matter staff of national statistical offices;

(b) Oversee the maintenance of the Common Metadata Framework (CMF) directing it towards a practical guide serving national statistical offices in developing their corporate metadata systems;

(c) Facilitate collection, discussion and dissemination of best practices in the field of statistical metadata, focusing on the role of metadata in the corporate management of statistical activities and practical implementations.

C. Expected outputs

17. The main output of the work is the Common Metadata Framework (CMF) located on the UNECE website. The CMF is structured in four parts. The members of the Steering Group on METIS assume their responsibility for soliciting new contributions, seeking reviews and comments, and maintaining the publications, as follows:

18. **Part A, Corporate Context:** This part provides an executive overview of the framework. The future activities should be oriented toward advocacy. The target audience is senior managers in national statistical offices.

Expected outputs for Part A:

(a) It is recommended to issue Part A in a print form, in order to serve as a support material for advocacy reasons.

[1] The Common Metadata Framework is available at: http://www.unece.org/stats/cmf/Welcome.html
[2] The Terms of Reference of the former Task Force are provided in document CES/BUR.2004/44.

19. **Part B, Metadata Concepts, Standards, Models and Registries:** this part is intended as a guide through numerous metadata-related standards, such as SDMX, SDDS, GDDS, ISO 11179, CMR, DDI, XBRL, etc. The role of Part B is to explain how the particular standards should be used, as well as to demonstrate synergies between the standards (e.g. correspondence between registries under SDMX and ISO 11179, etc.).

Expected outputs for Part B:

(a) Part B will be developed to comprise a complete list of applicable standards with the indication of the scope of individual standards

(b) The Steering Group will continue to collect studies on transformation of formats between different standards.

Editors of Part B:

Daniel Gillman (United States);
Alice Born (Canada);
Marco Pellegrino (Eurostat);
Hamish James (New Zealand);
Max Booleman (Netherlands);
Sergio Bacelar (Portugal);
Jana Meliskova (Expert invited by the UNECE)

20. **Part C, Metadata and the Statistical Cycle:** the role of this part is to achieve a harmonised understanding of the statistical business process through looking for common points in different presently used models.

Expected outputs for Part C:

(a) This part will comprise a "Generic Statistical Business Process Model", together with information about practical implementations of this model, including costs and benefits.

Editors of Part C*:*

Steven Vale (UNECE)
The Steering Group on Statistical Metadata

21. **Part D, Implementation:** this part fulfils a traditional role of METIS in sharing experiences and highlighting good practices. It comprises a series of case studies on the implementation of national metadata systems.

Expected outputs for Part D:

(a) Part D will consist of a series of case studies disseminated and maintained via the METIS wiki.

Editors of Part D:

Authors of the individual case studies

22. The maintenance of the CMF shall be guided by the following principles:

(a) The framework shall be a living/evolving reference to standards, concepts, and best practices. The Steering group should ensure future maintenance of the framework;

(b) The framework should be published in an electronic form on the METIS wiki, with some parts published in print (after the public and Steering Group review);

(c) All material included in the framework should be accessible without restriction;

(d) Drafts will be made available for public review. After review they will be left stable within the framework for some (reasonable) time;

(e) The draft framework shall be updated using contributions from METIS work sessions;

(f) The Steering group should be open to all inputs within and outside the framework of METIS and ensure collaboration with other relevant groups.

D. Methods of work

23. The main methods of work of the Steering Group on Statistical Metadata (METIS) are:

(a) Electronic consultations (audio and videoconferences and e-mail) used for a regular review of the content and its potential amendments;

(b) Meetings (work sessions) on Statistical Metadata (METIS) where all national and international statistical organizations can participate. These work sessions permit the exchange of experiences, collection of new contributions to the CMF, public review of the CMF's content and renewal of the Steering Group's membership. The work sessions are usually organized at 18-24 months intervals.

E. Membership

24. The intergovernmental work on Statistical Metadata (METIS) is a joint undertaking of the UNECE, Eurostat and OECD. Representatives of the interested National Statistical Organizations and the three sponsoring international organizations will be members of the Steering Group. The current members are: Alistair Hamilton (Australia), Alice Born (Canada), Matjaz Jug (New Zealand), Max Booleman (Netherlands), Jenny Linnerud (Norway), Joza Klep (Slovenia), Klas Blomqvist (Sweden), Daniel Gillman (United States), Steven Vale (UNECE), Marco Pellegrino (Eurostat), Trevor Fletcher (OECD), Jana Meliskova (Expert invited by the UNECE).

F. Time frame

25. The Steering Group shall review every year the content of each part of the CMF. Part A of the CMF should be finalised by the end of 2009, when the content of the CMF and the mandate of the Steering Group should be subject to a review by the Bureau.

IV. STEERING GROUP ON POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES

Terms of Reference

The Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses was set up in 2003. New terms of reference were approved by the CES Bureau in October 2006 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2006/OCT/5)

A. Background

26. During 2003-2006, the CES Programme on population and housing censuses has focused on the finalization of the CES Recommendations. The mandate given by the CES to the Steering Group related exclusively to the Recommendations. Following the adoption of the CES Recommendations in June 2006, this note now presents a proposal for a new CES programme on population and housing censuses oriented to address issues related to the implementation of the CES and Global Recommendations and of national census programmes.

B. Objectives of the work

27. It is proposed that the ECE Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses coordinates and oversees the implementation of a new ECE Programme on censuses which will focus on:

(a) Promoting the implementation of the newly adopted "CES recommendations for the 2010 censuses of population and housing" in the countries of the ECE region;

(b) Facilitating the exchange of experiences among member countries on subjects such as census methodology, technology or census content (definitions, classifications, etc.);

(c) Promoting the exchange of experiences in innovative methodology for census taking in collaboration with other regions;

(d) Assisting UNECE to provide assistance to SEE and CIS countries, in the preparations for the next population and housing census.

C. Planned activities

28. The Steering Group will organize meetings and other activities related to the objectives of the work. In particular, the Steering Group will decide on the content and the form of the meetings, which will focus on the following topics.

Census Technology

29. Many countries are planning to make use in their census of innovative technological tools, such as handheld devices, Internet, or other systems for census data collection, dissemination, etc. Countries could benefit from an exchange of experiences in these areas, looking in particular at the lessons learnt from countries where a census was taken in 2005 or 2006. Outsourcing is also a topic where it would be useful to have an exchange of information.

Census Content

30. Based on the new CES recommendations for the 2010 censuses, some training activities should be organised to help countries, in particular in SEE and the CIS, to implement the recommendations. These activities should be focused on specific areas where countries experienced difficulties in the last census round, or where different practices were followed, affecting the comparability of data. These areas include:

(a) Treatment of migrants, particularly labour migrants, and counting of population living abroad (long-term migrants);

(b) Economic characteristics (including activity status, status in employment, main source of livelihood, etc.).

Dissemination of census data

31. While dissemination of census results is always dealt with at the end of the census operations, this should be brought to the attention of census managers at an earlier stage of planning. The UNECE meeting of census experts in 2008 should be organized during the same week as the UNECE meeting of the specialists on dissemination. This would allow for a one-day joint session to discuss issues related to the dissemination of census data.

Coverage and quality evaluation

32. Although the evaluation of census results has always been an essential component of the census operation, the wider use of new ways of census taking has increased the importance of coverage and quality evaluation. There is the need for discussion and an exchange of information between countries to determine best practices in evaluating the quality and coverage for all types of censuses - including 'traditional' censuses and register-based censuses.

Census methodology

33. There is the need to better involve the countries in the region in a focused and technical discussion on census methodology. Such discussion should address issues related to censuses based on data collected through field operations and data collected from administrative records. Examples of issues to be addressed are:

(a) What is the best length for the enumeration period, considering the enumeration method, quality and the implications on census organisation and costs?

(b) In what circumstances and how should administrative registers be used for censuses (to reduce costs, for example), particularly if they do not cover all core topics or if the quality of their data is not very high?

(c) What are the possible uses of address/dwelling/building registers for the census? How can they be regularly updated?

(d) In what circumstances and how can sampling be used during the census?

D. Membership

34. Canada (chair), Armenia, Finland, France, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, CIS Statistical Committee, UNSD, UNFPA, Eurostat and UNECE.

E. Reporting

35. The Steering Group will report each year in October to the CES Bureau on the results of the activities that are carried out and the major actions proposed.

36. The terms of reference of the Steering Group will be reviewed by the CES Bureau in October 2009.

V. STEERING GROUP ON STATISTICAL DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION

Terms of Reference

The Steering Group on Statistical Dissemination and Communication was set up in 2004. New terms of reference were approved by the CES Bureau in October 2007 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/4)

A. Background

37. The present proposal aims at grouping together various activities under the CES work programme related to the organization of statistical dissemination and communication. It will encompass the work undertaken earlier on the dissemination of statistical output to information media and dissemination of statistical commentary. The Group will deal with the management and organization of dissemination and communication, and not with technical questions which are dealt with in other groups (e.g. statistical metadata, output databases, interchange standards, etc.).

38. The proposal has been prepared in cooperation with experts from Canada, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States. International organizations have expressed their interest in participating in the work (e.g. OECD) or in attending and contributing to meetings (e.g. Eurostat).

B. Purpose of the Steering Group

39. The objective is to facilitate the exchange of experience in statistical dissemination and communication and to collect and publish best practices, guidelines and recommendations on this topic. The work will focus on general questions of statistical dissemination and communication with the emphasis on strategic and management issues.

40. The aims of the Steering Group are:

(a) To propose ECE activities in the area of statistical dissemination and communication and to steer and monitor the agreed activities;

(b) To facilitate the collection, discussion and dissemination of the practices in statistical dissemination in national statistical offices and in international and supranational organizations;

(c) To create a network of experts working in this area and to exchange experience among them;

(d) To advise on developing guidelines and recommendations for statistical dissemination and communication in the framework of the proposed activities.

41. A list of topics that the Steering Group plans to cover can be found in Section F below.

C. Final outputs

42. A set of guides covering different aspects of statistical dissemination and communication. The guides will summarise good practices in NSOs and international organizations in this area. These guides will be published as separate parts of the series "Making Data Meaningful", in English and Russian.

D. Target audience

43. The Steering Group's activities will target managers and experts in national statistical offices responsible for communication, media relations and dissemination, as well as preparing outputs for such dissemination.

E. Method of work

44. The Steering Group will guide the UNECE secretariat in organising a series of annual work sessions.

45. Based on the papers and presentations at the meetings, examples and best practices will be collected, summarised and published. The outcomes of the work will be regularly posted on Internet.

46. The Steering Group will use electronic forms of communication to progress the work between the meetings.

F. List of topics to be explored by the Steering Group on statistical dissemination and Communication

Priority topics:

(a) **Users -** Who are the users of statistics? What is the relative importance of different user groups? How many resources should the statistical office devote to different groups? How to obtain user feedback; the organization of client surveys, market research, client support services, etc.;

(b) **Reputation management -** How to build and preserve trust; how to report on controversial/risky topics; how to react when mere publishing of data is considered a political act (e.g. by releasing data that feeds into current political debate); how to ensure conformance to the institutional values of the NSO and not cross the line between statistical and political commentary;

(c) **Organizational models for data dissemination** – organization of dissemination in the office, integration between subject-matter and communication departments, allocation of responsibilities;

(d) **Dissemination over Internet -** possibilities and challenges, usability studies, best practices; how to organize user-friendly access to databases; statistical portals, Web-pages of NSOs;

(e) **Statistical publications -** What is their role and future in the era of Internet dissemination? How will the compendium publications (yearbooks, statistical portraits) develop? Should paper publications disappear, change? How? Is there a need for harmonized style of such publications internationally?

(f) **Collecting market intelligence to support dissemination activities**.

Other topics that could be explored:

(a) **Metadata in dissemination -** How to present metadata to different groups of users (experts, general public, media); how much should be included and in which products? How to get the metadata to the users in the case of database dissemination;

(b) **The role of official statistical dissemination** – how should statistical dissemination develop in the changing environment (more transparent government systems, e-governments, increased accessibility to information for every citizen, Internet, etc.)? How does this comply with the fundamental principles of official statistics? How active should statistical offices be in disseminating and in ensuring their data reaches the user? How far should they go in making the data user-friendly and in trying to reach out to every citizen?

(c) **How to support international capacity building in dissemination**;

(d) **Recruiting, training and retaining dissemination specialists** – achieving the right skill-mix, training for dissemination to different audiences, writing for the Web vs. writing for paper publications, etc.;

(e) **Pricing issues -** pricing of printed publications and Internet products, making dissemination cost-efficient;

(f) **Managing revisions -** How to manage revisions to data sets (e.g. on Internet, in databases, publications); how to communicate revisions to users (including media);

(g) **Disseminating output that is integrated from different sources and different subject-matter areas**;

(h) **How the information media are using statistical output**;

G. Possible topics for guides and collections of good practices

<u>Priority topics:</u>

(a) Communicating with the media;

(b) A guide to writing stories about numbers;

(c) Style guide on the presentation of statistics.

<u>Others:</u>

(a) Measuring the effectiveness of statistical dissemination to media;

(b) Pricing of statistical products.

H. Membership

Chair: Leon Oestergaard (Statistics Denmark)
Petteri Baer (UNECE)
Eileen Capponi (OECD)
Frances Comerford (Central Statistical Office of Ireland)
Colleen Flannery (US Census Bureau)
Heath Jeffries (Office for National Statistics, UK)

Michael Levi (US Bureau of Labor Statistics)
David Marder (Office for National Statistics, UK)
Andrey Maslyanenko (Federal State Statistics Services, Russia)
Jonathan Massey-Smith (Statistics Canada)
Kenneth Meyer (US Census Bureau)
Terri Mitton (OECD)
Gina Pearson (US Energy Information Administration)
Gunther Schaefer (Eurostat)
Eric St. John (Statistics Canada)

I. Timeframe

The Steering Group will hold electronic discussions on a frequent basis.

VI. STEERING GROUP ON MANAGEMENT OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Terms of Reference

> The Steering Group on Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS) was set up in 2002. New terms of reference were approved by the CES Bureau in 2007 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2007/FEB/14)

A. Background

47. The Steering Group on Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS) was created by the Bureau at its October 2002 meeting (CES/BUR.2003/9/Add.2). The Steering Group's objectives are to provide a forum for exchange of experiences among information systems managers from national statistical offices and making available leading practices in the area of statistical information processing.

48. The foundation of the Steering Group was part of efforts aimed at streamlining the pattern of activities in the area of statistical data processing. A rising challenge is the necessity of unifying, methodologically, the work in specialised areas like data reporting, data editing, metadata, disclosure control, etc.

49. The activities of the Steering Group are undertaken under the joint auspices of the UNECE, Eurostat and OECD. The IMF participates actively in the work of the Steering Group.

B. Progress achieved by 2007

50. Already at the time of its formation, the Steering Group proposed to reduce the number of distinct activities. The chain of Seminars on Integrated Statistical Information Systems and Related Matters was discontinued and merged together with periodic meetings on management of statistical information systems.

51. Similarly, at the Steering Group's recommendation, the issues related to processing of geo-referenced statistical information were taken up at more general fora and the series of work sessions on geographical information systems (GIS) was discontinued. Obviously, it is understood that, in the case of emerging developments, a specialised ad-hoc event on GIS may be organized.

52. According to informatics managers in national statistical offices, the MSIS meetings provide a unique forum for exchange of their experiences. In order to better organize the knowledge obtained through these events, the Steering Group decided in 2002 to create a Website on Leading IT Practices in National Statistical Offices. OECD originally offered a very good infrastructure for hosting the website with a number of added functionalities. The website was later transferred to its current location on the UNECE server (http://www.unece.org/stats/sis/). While the UNECE could not offer all the advanced features originally provided by the OECD, its relative advantage was that the papers describing the IT practices in national statistical offices were already located on its website. The current work on the website, therefore, consists mainly of indexing the papers of interest according to the agreed structure.

53. The Steering Group organized the International Survey on the Role of the National Statistical Offices in e-Services. The survey focused on capturing the information on the impact of the Internet in developing on-line data collection and dissemination services. The results were published as CES/AC.71/25 in April 2005 and are available on the UNECE website (http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/ces/ac.71/2005/25.e.pdf). One of the results of the survey was that the MSIS Steering Group put, in its substantive work, emphasis on studying the client relationship from both the respondent and the data user perspectives.

54. The MSIS meetings usually take place in the first half of the year and attract participants from a wide range of countries.

55. The Steering Group has undertaken, using the meetings on MSIS, annual reviews of the related activities of the Conference. In particular, it has made recommendations for the work plans of the Task Forces on Common Metadata Framework and Electronic Raw Data Reporting (now dormant).

C. Ongoing and future activities

56. From a substantive viewpoint, the MSIS activities are focused around the following topics:

(a) Governance, management and development strategies of statistical information systems;

(b) Architecture of statistical information systems, including impact of changes in statistical processes, metadata driven systems, data collection channels, processing, warehousing and data interchange;

(c) Sharing of statistical software.

57. Within the topic of governance, the questions related to outsourcing and service partnership created particular interest.

58. The topic on architecture relates to one of the past achievements of the Conference – the guidelines on the “Statistical Information Systems Architecture for National Statistical Offices”. The guidelines, published in 1999, provided results of an extensive research undertaken in the 1980s and 1990s. The current activities reflect the view from the perspective of networking and growing demand for on-line services. The related papers are available on the UNECE website.

59. The topic on software sharing concerns the facilitation of sharing through the high-level harmonisation of architectures, and the governance of software sharing models through a proposed Sharing Advisory Board.

D. Challenges for the coming period

60. The Steering Group was proposed as a unifying element for various activities on (electronic) data processing. While it fulfilled part of this goal through annual review of activities of the Conference in the related areas, part of the focus was looking into the interest of informatics managers. However, as the specific activities bring sometimes controversial results and recommendations, the MSIS Steering Group can intensify its focus on such cross-cutting issues. The following are non-exhaustive examples of such issues:

(a) The quality experts promote a trend of respondent side editing (or editing nearer the source). This may provide benefits to statistical offices with respect to costs as well as quality. On the other hand, the present trends in electronic data reporting aim at increasing the automation, with a view of decreasing the response burden. Therefore, they are not so enthusiastic about the respondent-side editing;

(b) Interaction between data editing and disclosure control. The statistical disclosure control techniques often involve cell suppressions and perturbations, in particular in relation to microdata, thus decreasing the data quality. The data editing methods, on the other hand, aim at improving the quality through imputing missing values and correcting outliers, but may compromise the confidentiality if applied after perturbations and cell suppressions;

(c) All expert groups come across linking of various data sources, and particularly combining statistical surveys and administrative registers and records. There are issues linked to metadata, data reporting, disclosure control as well as editing. Therefore, this topic should be discussed from a more general perspective, and the MSIS should provide a platform for such discussion;

(d) Experience shows that metadata related issues cut across any other electronic data processing activity. This does not apply only to technical issues, but also to management and governance. Therefore, the metadata related issues might represent a driving force for the future MSIS activities.

E. Expected outputs

61. The MSIS Steering Group will, subject to the approval by the Bureau, continue to facilitate the exchange of experience and identify leading practices. These will be summarised in products (electronic and/or printed publications). At present, the following outputs are planned within the next two years:

(a) Wiki to encourage exchanges of good practices and experiences;

(b) The establishment of a Software Sharing Board;

(c) An update to the publication "Information Systems Architecture for National Statistical Offices".

VII. TASK FORCE ON THE ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION ESTIMATES USING DIFFERENT LENGTH OF STAY DEFINITIONS

Terms of Reference

Approved by the Bureau in October 2008 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2009/OCT/12/Add.2 Rev.1) and by the UNECE Executive Committee in February 2009 (ECE/EX/2009/L.4)

A. Background

62. Two different but interrelated aspects of international migration estimates have often been discussed by statisticians and researchers over recent years:

(a) Different residency rules adopted by countries and their impact on comparability of international migration estimates;

(b) Definition and availability of data on short-term migration flows.

63. This project aims to explore the impact of different definitions on actual data on migration flows and explore the availability of data on short-term migration to provide an evidence base for discussing these issues.

64. Long-term international migration should be defined using the United Nations (UN) recommended definition of someone who changes his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least a year. In practice, the duration threshold used to determine who is considered a migrant can vary from country to country making international comparability more challenging. However, the effect of differing residency rules on migration estimates is not fully understood. This project will try to assess the consequences of using different durations on the estimates of inflows and outflows, their composition and net migration. The goal is to measure the impact of different duration thresholds on the estimates of flows and (if possible) to assess their composition by age, sex and origin.

65. In recent years, several countries have seen an increase in so-called ‘short-term’ moves, those made for more than a few months but less than a year. According to the UN definition, a short-term migrant is an individual who temporarily moves from his/her country of residence for a period of more than three and less than twelve months, for purposes of work or study. Only a few countries are currently able to produce estimates of short-term migration. Moreover, there is a debate about the UN definition, since it is perceived as being too narrow for some uses. For example, the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering the extension of the UN definition by including shorter lengths of stay and/or other reasons for visit such as visiting friends/family and vacations.

66. The issues of assessing the impact of different duration thresholds and availability and definitions of short-term migration were discussed at various UNECE/Eurostat Work Sessions on Migration Statistics. At the meeting in March 2008, papers were presented by representatives from the United Kingdom and Austria. Recognising the growing interest in this topic, the United Kingdom was asked to lead a small research study to consider the above issues. A number of other countries have already expressed an interest in being involved in the project. These include Austria, Germany, Norway, Switzerland and the Netherlands. This proposal will be sent to other participants of CES activities.

B. Objectives of the Task Force

67. This project has two main goals, with some specific sub-goals:

(a) Assess the impact on international migration estimates derived from the use of different duration thresholds to define usual residence. Under this goal, the following sub-goals are identified:

(i) How estimates of migration differ when different length of stay criteria are used;

(ii) Whether using different definitions of migration has implications for the balance between immigration and emigration;

(iii) How well different data sources/systems can be used to measure migration using a range of definitions;

(b) Assess the availability of data on short-term migration, explore their accuracy and consider alternative definitions of short-term migration. Under this goal, the following sub-goals are identified:

(i) How many countries can produce data on short-term migration;

(ii) Assess data accuracy and relevance according to different definitions of short-term moves;

(iii) Assess the relative importance of short and long-term migration moves and how this has changed in recent years;

(iv) Evaluate the relative importance of different reasons for moving in the balance between long and short-term moves;

(v) How well different data sources/systems can be used to measure short-term migration.

C. Activities of the Task Force and expected outputs

68. The Task Force will carry out the following activities:

(a) Design a set of tables to collect detailed and comparable data on international migration. Different data tables should be built for the two components of the project:

(i) Long-term immigration & emigration estimates should be derived according to:
   a. different lengths of stay (>12months, >6months, >3months, >1month),
   b. calendar years from 2001 to 2007.

(ii) Short-term immigration & emigration estimates should be derived according to:
   a. different lengths of stay (between 1 and 12 months, between 3 and 12 months, between 6 and 12 months, etc.);
   b. reasons for visit (employment, study, other);
   c. calendar year from 2001 to 2007.

It is expected that not all participating countries can provide all of this information. However, some statistical agencies will be able to provide more detail than outlined. In assessing what might be possible, any information on other cross-classifications would be of interest. Examples of potentially useful variables include basic demographic information (age/sex), country of previous/usual residence, and sector of employment;

(b) Collect information on sources and methods of data collection from participating countries, together with some indication of the accuracy of the estimates provided. This might include a brief summary of any known limitations with the data;

(c) Carry out comparative analysis of collected data with the view and prepare a report to be presented at the next UNECE/Eurostat meeting on migration statistics. The document should illustrate the implications of using different duration thresholds on estimates of long-term international migration, the availability of data on short-term migration and the relevance of different definitions of short-term migration.

D. Timetable for activities and intermediate outputs

69. Timetable

(a) Data Collection (November-December 2008)

(b) Data Summary (to end March 2009)

(i) Summarise data into charts, tables etc.;

(ii) Draw out key messages from these tables;

(iii) Identify any key gaps in the data collected and request further information.

Intermediate output: report summarising the data and information collected

(c) Report Writing (to end May 2009)

(i) Draw conclusions from data and information collected;

(ii) Submit to participating countries for comments.

Final output: paper to be presented at joint Eurostat/UNECE meeting (November 2009).

E. Membership

70. The Task Force members are: United Kingdom (Chair), Australia, Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, Eurostat, UNECE and WTO.

VIII. TASK FORCE ON FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

Terms of Reference

The Task Force on Families and Households was set up in 2003. New terms of reference approved by the CES Bureau in October 2006 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2006/OCT/6)

A. Background

71. Families and households statistics was highlighted as one of the emerging topics in social statistics at the first joint UNECE-Eurostat-OECD Meeting of Directors of 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 as family and household types that are becoming more and more relevant in modern societies and that need to be defined at international and regional levels. These areas were also identified as a field where common survey modules could be designed. During the discussion, it was also pointed out that understanding of family background and

history is of increasing policy concern as it affects social outputs of individuals, such as education and employment.

72. The UNECE Task Force on families and households worked to update the section on families and households of the CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing. During this work, major problems were identified in measuring reconstituted families and in identifying a distinguishing line between private and institutional households. While reconstituted families have always existed caused by widowhood, the current challenge is to map those caused by union dissolution followed by repartnering.

B. Expected outputs

73. Within the overall objective of improving the relevance of families and households statistics, the Task Force is expected to:

(a) Define the concepts related to policy concerns that would include the new forms of families and households[3] to the issues related to family background;

(b) Develop an analytical framework and research papers on the measurement of different emerging forms of households and families;

(c) Assess the feasibility of implementing the concept for administrative data or survey use in the UNECE region after taking into account the results of the testing.

C. Activities of the Task Force

74. The Task Force will carry out the following activities:

(a) Prepare a work plan for delivering the outputs outlined above;

(b) Identify the families and households forms that are “emerging” and relevant for a better measurement of family background. This includes the review of research and analysis carried out in the region in the field of families and households and the definition of those forms of family engagements that are increasingly affecting the living arrangements of people in the ECE region;

(c) Analyze the existing international and regional standards and their relevance to measurement of the emerging forms of families and households;

(d) Analyze countries’ practices in measuring emerging forms of families and households. Survey modules used in national statistical offices to measure the emerging forms of families and households will be reviewed together with large scale studies undertaken by other relevant institutions such as Eurostat (EU SILC, EU LFS) and ECE PAU (GGP);

---

[3] Reconstituted families, same-sex couples, living apart together, commuters between households, persons living apart within a network.

(e) Design an analytical framework and draft research papers on the measurement of emerging forms of families and households in the UNECE region. This will include where relevant the development of survey modules or question sets;

(f) Organize and coordinate the testing of the survey modules/question sets through field surveys, evidences from past surveys or other sources;

(g) Finalise the papers on the emerging forms of families and households, taking into account the results of the testing:

(h) Finalize the analytical framework and the papers, to be submitted to the CES Task Force on Emerging Issues in Social Statistics, and then to the CES Bureau.

D. Time-table for activities and intermediate outputs

September 2006	Work plan finalized and submitted to the Social Statistics Task Force
December 2006	Definition of emerging forms of families and households
April 2007	Analysis of countries' experience and existing international standards finalized
July 2007	Draft framework developed
March 2008	Prepare first draft or papers on emerging forms of families and households
December 2008	testing of survey modules/question sets finalized
June 2009	finalization of analytical framework and papers
July 2009	submission of output to CES Task Force on Emerging Issues in Social Statistics
October 2009	submission of output to CES Bureau

E. Membership

75. Italy (chair), Armenia, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom and United States.

IX. TASK FORCE ON THE MEASUREMENT OF THE QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT

Terms of Reference

Approved by the CES Bureau in June 2007 (ECE/CES/BUR/2007/JUNE/3) and the UNECE Executive Committee in February 2008 (ECE/EX/2008/L.2)

A. Background

76. Since 2000, a number of successive Joint UNECE/EUROSTAT/ILO Seminars on quality of work has brought together national and international specialists of labour statistics, and led to the recognition of the increasing interest of countries and international organizations to evaluate and monitor the working conditions of workers in different places of the world, and assessing the extent to which the jobs they perform benefit their well-being.

77. The various contributions to the issue agree with the objectives of the European Union Social Policy Agenda and the ILO's Decent Work paradigm. The rich diversity and overlaps of the contributions to the issue have pushed to acknowledge the need to design and set up a common framework, applicable to all countries, in order to measure the various aspects of employment.

78. Thus in 2005, an ILO-ECE-Eurostat Task Force was established to develop a conceptual framework for measuring the qualitative aspect of work. This Task Force completed its work and presented the framework at the recent UNECE/ILO/Eurostat Seminar on the Measurement of Quality of Work, which took place on 18-20 April 2007 in Geneva. Reviewing the proposed framework, participants appreciated the work carried out by the Task force and acknowledged the progress made. They also agreed that more work needs to be done in order to draft, test and finalize the framework and the list of indicators.

79. The Seminar found that from the international perspective, the overall concept of quality of work as defined by the presented framework would be best described by the heading of "Quality of Employment". At the same time, the Seminar initiated the overhaul of the conceptual framework, identifying the dimensions of quality of employment to assess, and recommended that a new Task Force be established with the objective to pursue the work initiated and prepare a guidelines document on measuring the aspects of quality of employment, identifying a common framework and an appropriate list of indicators. The work is related to the measurement of the quality of employment from the worker's perspective, not to measurement of the quality of labour services and labour productivity.

B. Objectives of the task force

80. Building on the work accomplished so far, the Task Force will have as main objectives:

(a) To refine the list of indicators developed by the previous task force taking into consideration the proposals made at the seminar in April 2007;

(b) To consider additional indicators including those for which data may not currently be available, as discussed at the seminar;

(c) To test the newly created list of indicators against a set of criteria to be developed by the Task Force;

(d) To define the context where the indicators should be used and develop a list of context indicators;

(e) To define for each indicator the level of disaggregation required (in terms of sub-population groups);

(f) To define measurement objectives, definitions, and methodology for each indicator;

(g) To develop a final list of indicators to be presented in two different ways:

(i) as a list of indicators with a reference for each indicator to the dimension(s) it measures;

(ii) as a list of dimensions with reference for each dimension to the relevant indicators.

(h) To produce an interim report to inform the eighteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (4th quarter 2008) and others about the progress made;

(i) To explore the possibility of organizing a fifth seminar on this topic in 2009 to discuss the revised list of indicators;

(j) To prepare a work plan to undertake the tasks required.

81. In order to carry out its work and be able to deliver its output in a reasonable time frame, the Task Force should explore the possibility of obtaining extra resources either financial or "in-kind".

82. The Task Force will report about its progress to the CES Bureau in February 2008.

C. Composition of the Task Force

83. The Task Force is composed of representatives from Canada (chair), France, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, The European Commission, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Condition, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIGO), ILO and UNECE.

D. Methods of work of the Task Force

84. The Task Force will mainly work using e-mail connections. The Task Force may schedule, to the extent of resource available will allow, some face-to-face meeting when the nature of discussions will require so.

E. Outputs

85. The main outputs of the Task Force will be:

(a) An interim report to inform the eighteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (4th quarter 2008);

(b) A proposal for a common conceptual framework on the quality of work and employment, including a set of statistical indicators for measuring the quality aspects of labour and employment with their meaning and specific contexts of utilization.

F. Time frame

86. The work defined by the Task Force should be completed by the end of 2009.

X. TASK FORCE TO UPDATE THE CANBERRA GROUP HANDBOOK ON HOUSEHOLD INCOME STATISTICS

Terms of Reference

Approved by the CES Bureau in February 2009 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/4/Rev.2)

A. Background

87. In a note tabled at the October 2008 meeting of the CES Bureau, Statistics Canada presented a paper on options for further work on income, wealth and poverty measurement. The proposal had two components: a narrower focus on improving the income concept per the Canberra Handbook; and broader work on integration of wealth, income and expenditure.

88. The CES Bureau agreed that a Task Force be set up on the practical implementation of the Canberra Group Handbook reflecting new developments in the measurement of income. They recommended that Canada approach the UNSD for the possibility of setting up a City Group for the broader work.

89. The proposed Task Force's mandate would be to develop practical implementation guidelines of the Canberra Group Handbook. These guidelines should reflect recent advancements in income measurement in specific areas such as imputed rent, in-kind benefits, and capital gains and losses.

B. Objectives of the Task Force

90. It is proposed that the overall objective of the work of the Task Force be three-fold:

(a) To update the Canberra Handbook with new advancements in the area of household income measurement; the Handbook could also discuss practical issues related to possible data sources (administrative data, survey data, data coming from international databases such as the Luxembourg Income Study), along with possible strengths and limitations (this should be discussed at the conceptual level rather than at the practical level);

(b) To expand the current guidelines set out in the Canberra Handbook to take into account these new concepts; the Task Force could also update which countries depart for the recommendations of the handbook;

(c) To establish a set of quality assurance guidelines for countries to assess the quality of their income estimates. Income is measured differently in the system of national accounts and in most social surveys. Part of the quality guidelines may be based on reconciliation between micro and macro estimates, when this is possible.

91. Each of these objectives will help achieve greater harmonization of income concepts across countries.

92. The Task Force is expected to:

(a) Gather intelligence and update the inventory of current concepts/definitions of income among countries to determine how these may have changed/advanced;

(b) Assess these developments against the current recommendations outlined in the Canberra Handbook;

(c) Identify new concepts and methods for operationalizing these concepts not currently included in the Handbook;

(d) Provide guidance on how to achieve greater harmonization of income measurement across countries by developing practical guidelines for measuring existing and new household income concepts/definitions;

(e) Establish key quality assurance guidelines for income measurement. These guidelines should include reconciliation to external sources.

C. Activities of the Task Force

93. It is anticipated at this time that the activities of the Task Force would be as follows:

(a) Update the current inventory of existing income definitions/concepts used by countries. This inventory should also include the various approaches and methodologies used for measuring income;

(b) Map existing definitions and concepts of income used by countries against the Canberra Handbook to identify current gaps;

(c) Broaden the intelligence gathering through discussions and involvement with key international academics and researchers;

(d) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches to defining and measuring household income;

(e) Compile a set of guidelines and recommendations for defining and measuring household income based on best practices and advancements identified in this area, including property income, self-employment income, own account production, imputed rent for owner occupied dwellings, social transfers in-kind, inter-household transfers and capital gains;

(f) Consider any further reporting/consultation requirements, such as to the International Conference of Labour Statisticians regarding any changes recommended to the income standards, and to the proposed City Group regarding any crossover implications to the work on the two forums;

(g) Present final report to the CES Bureau.

94. The Task Force may come to a view that it needs to broaden or reduce the scope of the activities described above, based on deliberations and the nature of the work that unfolds. It is suggested that the Task Force be allowed to do that if it can form a consensus.

D. Time frame

95. It is anticipated that the complete work of the Task Force will be concluded for the recommendations and results to be presented at the February 2011 meeting of the CES Bureau.

E. Composition of the Task Force

96. The Task Force consists of representatives from Austria, Australia (chair), Canada, Norway, United States, Eurostat, ILO, OECD, the Luxembourg Income Study, CIS-STAT and UNECE.

F. System of work and possible meetings

97. The Task Force will meet via conference call to agree upon deliverables and timelines. Tasks will be assigned to various members and the Chair and Secretary will be agreed upon.

98. The members of the Task Force are expected to agree on the division of labour and, to reduce costs, work mainly via e-mail and conference calls. Currently, no meetings of the Task Force are planned; however, a face-to-face meeting may be necessary early in the process and a second face-to-face meeting for discussing and agreeing upon final draft recommendations for implementation guidelines. There would be an attempt to coordinate any such meetings with the City Group if one is to be established.

XI. TASK FORCE ON BUSINESS STATISTICS

Terms of Reference

Approved by the CES Bureau in February 2008 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2008/FEB/13)

A. Background

99. In February 2007, the CES Bureau discussed a range of strategic issues in the field of business statistics. The Bureau observed that a number of international initiatives were already under way in this area, notably the UN Friends of the Chair initiative on the integrated approach

to economic statistics, the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers (formerly known as the International Round Table on Business Survey Frames), and the European group on multinational enterprises.

100. There are numerous other international fora where various aspects of business statistics are being discussed. The following list is by no means all-inclusive:

(a) Subsequent to a CES seminar in June 2005, a Task Force on Electronic Data Reporting was established to further explore the issues surrounding EDR;

(b) Additional international work in the area of business statistics is presently being carried out by the UN Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics and the UN Expert Group on Industrial Statistics;

(c) The OECD recently established a new Working Party on International Trade in Goods and Trade in Services Statistics, merging the two existing Expert Groups on Merchandise Trade and on Trade in Services into one Working Party;

(d) The OECD is currently developing frameworks for business indicators in the areas of globalization, entrepreneurship and science and technology;

(e) The UN Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications and its Technical Subgroup is coordinating international implementation work related to the latest revisions of ISIC and the CPC;

(f) The Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Impact of Globalization on National Accounts is reviewing ways in which phenomena related to globalization (e.g. transfer pricing, merchanting) are impacting the source data, most notably business statistics, used in compiling national accounts;

(g) The Ottawa Group on Price Statistics, the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics, the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics, the London Group on Environmental Statistics and the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation Statistics are also doing valuable work on different aspects of business statistics.

101. Looking beyond the work of these various groups, the Bureau felt there were other important strategic issues in the field of business statistics that would benefit greatly from additional international cooperative effort. It saw a need for a wider vision of the directions in which business statistics are headed over the next several years. The Bureau decided “to include the issue of business statistics on the agenda of the CES plenary session in 2008. Meanwhile, a small task force should be formed to address pending issues in the field of business statistics.”

102. The Bureau asked Statistics Canada and Eurostat to prepare the terms of reference of the Task Force.

B. Objective

103. The purpose of the Task Force is to identify and prepare an overview of a few key strategic issues in order to help define the focus of CES discussion in the area of business statistics over the next five years. The Task Force should examine in particular those areas where there is scope for sharing best practices and promoting international harmonization. The Task Force should organize and lead a one-day seminar on business statistics at the CES annual meeting in June 2009.

104. Overlaps should be avoided with the work done in other groups mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 that are currently working on business statistics. For example, technical issues related to electronic data reporting are to be kept outside the scope of the Task Force, as these are dealt with by the Task Force on Electronic Data Reporting.

105. The Task Force will begin its work by considering what definition of business statistics to adopt for its purposes. This could range from a narrow traditional definition encompassing structural business statistics, industrial and services statistics, and business registers to a wide definition encompassing all statistics collected from businesses including, for example, environmental statistics and information about intangible assets such as business knowledge. It will then identify the areas in business statistics that need further work and prepare a work plan. This work plan will address one or possibly two of the following areas:

(a) The conduct of economic censuses;

(b) The conduct of business surveys;

(c) The reduction of respondent burden;

(d) New domains/user needs;

(e) The definition and treatment of multinational enterprises;

(f) Review of the various international manuals related to business statistics.

106. In sum, the first order of business for the Task Force will be to select specific directions within the broad field of business statistics to provide a focus for CES discussions during the next few years.

C. Membership

107. The Task Force will be a Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Task Force. It will be open to all member states of UNECE, OECD and Eurostat. IMF and UNCTAD will also participate in the work of the group. Members are expected to actively contribute to the agenda of the Task Force.

108. The Task Force will be co-chaired by [to be determined]. UNECE will provide secretariat support to the Task Force.

109. A leadership sub-group composed of members from Eurostat, Statistics Canada, UNECE, OECD and 3 or 4 others [to be determined] will steer the work of the Task Force and will report on the progress of work to the Conference and its Bureau.

D. Outcome

110. The Task Force will provide a forum to encourage and coordinate the work undertaken by countries and international organizations in the area of business statistics. It will begin by preparing a work plan and will also organize a one-day CES seminar in June 2009.

E. Timetable

111. The following timetable for the work of the Task Force is proposed:

February 2008: The CES Bureau approves the Task Force terms of reference, possibly with modifications. The CES Bureau also identifies the Task Force co-chairs.

March-April 2008: The Task Force co-chairs, working with the UNECE secretariat, identify the Task Force members and the leadership sub-group.

June 2008: The Task Force co-chairs submit a brief initial report to the CES plenary session formally launching the Task Force activities.

Summer or early fall 2008: The Task Force leadership sub-group meets either face-to-face or via tele-conference to discuss the Task Force agenda and priorities. The immediate goals are to prepare a work plan and define an agenda for a meeting of the full Task Force in early 2009. Co-chairs prepare a short report for submission to the CES Bureau fall 2008 meeting.

Early 2009: First meeting of the full Task Force. The meeting objective is to prepare a work plan and organize the agenda for a one-day seminar on issues in business statistics as part of the June 2009 CES annual meeting.

June 2009: The Task Force organizes a one-day seminar on issues in business statistics as part of the CES annual meeting.

Thereafter: The Task Force will pursue issues arising out of the June 2009 seminar.

XII. TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS (JOINT TASK FORCE WITH THE UNECE ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION)

Terms of Reference

The Joint Task Force on Environmental indicators was set up in February 2009. The terms of reference were approved by the CES Bureau in October 2008, UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy in January 2009, and by the UNECE Executive Committee in February 2009 (ECE/EX/2009/L.6).

A. Background

112. The involvement of the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE) in the preparation of the assessment reports for the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conferences triggered their interest in the development of a set of environmental indicators and practical recommendations on their application. The Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment under the Committee on Environmental Policy prepared the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (Indicator Guidelines)[4], which were endorsed at the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, 2007).

113. The Conference of European Statisticians was active in developing environmental statistics in the 1980s and early 1990s. It developed several environmental statistics classifications and a pan-European compendium of environmental statistics. At present, it supports a Joint UNECE/OECD[5]/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development in its efforts to develop a broad conceptual framework for measuring sustainable development.

114. Further to initial discussions between the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division and the Statistical Division of UNECE, the Committee on Environmental Policy, at its April 2008 meeting, invited the Conference of European Statisticians to consider cooperating with the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment on methodological issues of environmental indicators (ECE/CEP/148).

B. Objective

115. Against this background, it is proposed that a joint intersectoral Task Force on environmental indicators be created. The purpose of the Task Force will be to assist national statistical agencies and institutions responsible for the production of national reports on the state of the environment in EECCA and SEE countries to improve environmental data collection, further strengthen environmental reporting and promote comparability of environmental statistics and indicators in the region.

[4] Published in the United Nations publication, *Environmental Indicators and Indicators-based Assessment Reports: Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*, Sales No. E 07.II.E.9.
[5] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

116. The joint Task Force will report to its parent bodies, the Committee on Environmental Policy and Conference of European Statisticians, and to their Bureaux. The Task Force will work closely with the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and inform it about the progress made and about the outcome.

117. The joint Task Force on environmental indicators will:

(a) Review the indicators covered by the Indicator Guidelines to provide practical recommendations on the necessary adaptation of statistical classifications and data collection forms and procedures for the production of indicators;

(b) Propose additional environmental indicators that may be important but are currently not included in the Indicator Guidelines (e.g. environmental expenditure, environmental taxes and subsidies, production of and trade in environmental goods and services and hazardous substances, and resource productivity) as well as provide and adapt to the needs of the countries concerned relevant guidance materials that are available at the international level;

(c) Recommend modern presentation formats and tools for effective dissemination of environmental indicators, including the use of modern information technologies;

(d) Assist in the organization of a workshop on environmental indicators to be jointly organized by UNECE and the United Nations Statistics Division in 2009. The workshop will be open to all interested countries so as to broaden the exchange of experiences and approaches. It will provide a forum for presenting the latest developments on relevant methodologies and classifications available at the global level.

C. Membership

118. Members of the Task Force will be nominated by country focal points in the Conference of European Statisticians and the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. The United Nations Statistical Division, Eurostat, the European Environmental Agency, the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Inter-State Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States will be invited to designate representatives. The UNECE Statistical Division and the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division will jointly service the Task Force.

D. Timetable

119. The mandate of the Task Force will cover the period from 2009 to September 2010.

E. Outcome

120. The Task Force will submit, through the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians, a final report on its accomplishments and a proposal for follow-up, if any, to both UNECE Committees.

XIII. TASK FORCE ON GENDER STATISTICS TRAINING FOR STATISTICIANS

Terms of Reference

The Task Force on Gender Statistics Training for Statisticians was set up in 2005. New terms of reference were approved by the CES Bureau in February 2008 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2008/FEB/17)

A. Background

121. The promotion of gender statistics training for all statisticians in the national statistical system was proposed by the Work Session on Gender Statistics in 2004 as one of the key activities to improve the understanding of gender statistics.

122. Several countries and international organizations (Statistics Sweden, FAO, United States Census Bureau, and UNECE among others) carried out activities on training of statisticians in national statistical systems to incorporate the gender dimensions into the collection and dissemination of statistics. The meeting considered it very important to consolidate and coordinate these activities and to establish a Task Force on Gender-Sensitization Training for Statisticians. The ToR for the Task Force was adopted by the Bureau in February 2005.

123. In July 2006, UNECE received funding from the World Bank to carry out technical cooperation within Central Asian and South-East European countries in the area of gender statistics. Within this project the work of the Task Force was fostered and training events at the regional and national levels in selected CIS and SEE countries were held. A set of training materials[6] was developed. Work was also undertaken to develop a training manual on gender statistics.

124. In October 2007, the Bureau reviewed the progress of the work of the Task Force. The Bureau noted, among other things, that the language has to be clarified in order to transfer the right message and some of the terms used (e.g. gender sensitization) are not clear to people who are not gender statisticians. Therefore, the Task Force suggests changing its name to *Task Force on Gender Statistics Training for Statisticians.*

B. Objective of the work

125. The main objective of the Task Force is to continue to assist national statistical offices to integrate the gender perspective into their data collection, processing and dissemination through training workshops and technical cooperation activities.

C. Tasks

126. The main tasks of the Task Force are:

---

[6] http://www.unece.org/stats/Documents/2007.04.gender-wks.htm

(a) To continue to develop training materials (multimedia presentations, case studies, participatory-based activities, etc.) for future use in regional and national training events;

(b) To finalize the training manual on gender statistics.

D. Outputs

127. The main output of the Task Force will be:

(a) Training materials for Gender Statistics Training that include or expand upon existing training materials;

(b) The training manual on gender statistics.

E. Membership

128. The Task Force on Gender Statistics Training for Statisticians will include representatives from Finland, Serbia, Sweden, United States, UNDP, World Bank, FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNFPA and UNECE.

F. Meetings

129. The Task Force will work mainly using e-mail consultations, teleconferences, and face-to-face meetings as necessary.

G. Time frame

130. It is expected that the work of the Task Force will be finalized by 2010.

XIV. TASK FORCE ON THE MEASUREMENT OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Terms of Reference

The Task Force on the Measurement of Gender Based Violence was set up in 2005. New terms of reference were approved by the CES Bureau in February 2008 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2008/FEB/18)

A. Background

131. In February 2005, the Bureau approved the ToR for the Task Force on the Measurement of Violence against Women. Since its inception, the Task Force has been active as follows:

(a) The TF prepared a comparative analysis of 25 National Surveys carried out by 17 Member countries of the CES, which was presented and discussed at the 2006 UNECE Work

Session on Gender Statistics7. The analysis highlighted the differences and commonalities of the methodology used to measure gender-based violence. Also highlighted was a common basis from where it would be possible to develop standard methodology. It was recommended that the Task Force continue its work under the mandate of the CES and increase its collaboration with other important stakeholders active in improving measurement of gender-based violence, in particular UN bodies/departments (UNDAW, UNHCHR) and the research community;

(b) In 2007 the TF hosted the "*Expert Group Meeting on Indicators to Measure Violence Against Women*" organized jointly with the UN Division for Advancement of Women, the UN Statistical Division and in collaboration with other UN Regional commissions. This Expert Group Meeting convened with the objective to commence work on a list of indicators;

(c) Information on the measurement of gender-based violence have been integrated into the Gender Statistics Website to inform interested users on definitions and methods to measure gender-based violence through surveys, as well as to disseminate analytical products and available statistical data. Statistical data from 11 countries are also presented in a unifying framework, facilitating access to national survey data that are not widely available in the international context.

132. In October 2007, the Bureau reviewed the progress of the work of the Task Force. The Bureau noted that:

> *"there is a bias in the perception of some of the activities which may be partially caused by the wording; users often do not understand the purpose of gender statistics and consider the subject exclusively as an advocacy tool for women; there is a need to find formulations that can better express what gender statistics is trying to achieve in an impartial way;(…and…) the issue is not only violence against women but also violence in families (e.g. by parents, carers) and households." (ECE/CES/BUR.2007/OCT/18, pages 3 and 5).*

133. The Bureau requested the Task Force to revise its ToR to take into account the concerns raised in the discussion. Therefore, the Task Force suggests its being renamed as the *Task Force on the Measurement of Gender-based Violence*.

B. Objective of the work

134. The objective of the Task Force is to continue to improve and harmonize statistics on gender-based violence.

C. Tasks

135. The main tasks of the Task Force will be:

(a) To continue to promote training for NSOs and users in the field of gender-based violence;

---

[7] http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.09.gender.htm

(b) To define common concepts and identify a minimum set of questions for:
  (i) specialized surveys; and
  (ii) inclusion of a short module on Gender-based violence in on-going surveys.

D. Outputs of the task force

136. The main outputs of the Task Force will be:

(a) Ongoing contributions to the global effort in response to the UN General Assembly's resolution[8] for the development of a "set of possible indicators on violence against women in order to assist States in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women"[9] to be adopted by the Statistical Commission[10];

(b) Methodological guidelines on producing data on gender-based violence through i) specialized surveys and ii) inclusion of a short module on gender-based violence in on-going surveys.

E. Membership

137. The composition of the Task Force on the Measurement of Gender-based Violence includes representatives from Canada, Italy, Serbia, European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), University of Lancaster, London Metropolitan University, University of Osnabrueck, Office of the High Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW), UNIFEM, WHO and UNECE.

F. Meetings

138. The Task Force will work using e-mail consultations or face-to-face meetings as needed.

G. Time frame

139. The work plan is defined by the Task Force on the Measurement of Gender-based Violence. The Bureau will review the ToR in 2010.

---

[8] The resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women" (A/RES/61/143) was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 19 December 2006.
[9] Text quoted directly from *Aide Mémoire* of the "Expert Group Meeting on indicators to measure violence against women" held on *8-10 October 2007 in Geneva (http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.30/2007/mtg1/zip.1.e.pdf).*
[10] An initial set of core indicators was adopted by the Statistical Commission in February 2009.

XV. GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

Terms of Reference

Approved by the Bureau in April 2007 and by the UNECE Executive Committee in February 2008 (ECE/EX/2008/L.2). The work is undertaken jointly with Eurostat and OECD.

A. Background

140. In June 2006, the Conference of European Statisticians reviewed a Rapporteur Report on Globalization Statistics prepared by Statistics Canada and Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom (ECE/CES/2006/2/Add.1). The conference decided that: "there is a need for a body to coordinate the work on globalization statistics; the importance of globalization statistics in relation to economic indicators was emphasised" (report of the fifty-fourth plenary session, ECE/CES/70).

141. Following the Conference, the CES Bureau discussed, at its October 2006 and its February 2007 meetings, a proposal for follow-up work on globalization statistics on the basis of proposals prepared by the UNECE secretariat in cooperation with ONS, United Kingdom and Statistics Canada, and in consultation with OECD, Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Statistics Netherlands (ECE/CES/BUR/2006/OCT/10 and ECE/CES/BUR/2007/FEB/10).

142. The Bureau recommended that the work be mandated to an Expert Group. Given the complexity of the issues, it would be difficult for the Group to cover all statistical areas affected by globalization. It was therefore recommended that the Expert Group should approach the issue from a national accounts perspective using the SNA as an integrating framework. The Expert Group should deal with the main distortions in economic statistics caused by globalization and propose approaches (surveys, additional data sources) to help repair the accounts. Furthermore, it was recommended to address the impact of globalization also from the perspective of transition economies.

143. The Bureau asked Statistics Netherlands to prepare the terms of reference and to chair the group.

B. Objective

144. The purpose of the Expert Group (from now on referred to as Group of Experts) is to review the main distortions in the compilation of national accounts and related source statistics, as caused by the growing globalization of economies. In so doing, the Group of Experts should put forward proposals to deal with these distortions and improve the quality of national accounts. The Group of Experts should approach the issue using the system of national accounts as an integrating framework.

145. Technical cooperation activities are to be kept outside the scope of the group. Furthermore, it should be noted that several globalization related issues are already being addressed by other international fora; the Group of Experts will closely coordinate its activities with these fora. Finally, it is not the goal of the Group of Experts to analyse source statistics themselves; problems identified by the Group of Experts will be brought to the attention of the working groups dealing with these source statistics so that they can look at alternatives to improve existing guidelines and/or practices.

C. Membership

146. The work of the Group of Experts is undertaken jointly with Eurostat and OECD. It is open to all member States of UNECE, OECD and Eurostat. IMF, WTO and UNCTAD also participate in the work of the Group. Members are expected to actively contribute to the agenda of the Group.

147. The Group of Experts is chaired by Statistics Netherlands. UNECE will provide secretariat support to the Group.

148. A leadership sub-group composed of Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States of America, UNECE, OECD, Eurostat and IMF will steer the work of the Group of Experts and will report on the progress of work to the Conference and its Bureau.

D. Outcome

149. The Group of Experts will provide a forum to encourage and coordinate the work undertaken by countries and international organizations in dealing with the effects of globalization in the compilation and reconciliation of data for national accounts and the source statistics driving them.

150. The Group of Experts will prepare a set of guidelines/recommendations/best practices on how to deal with the distortions in the accounts. The report will:

(a) Identify the areas of national accounts most affected by the impact of globalization;

(b) Put forward proposals to improve the surveying, the subsequent processing and the integration of statistical data;

(c) Put forward proposals to arrive at an internationally consistent recording of transactions in national accounts and related source statistics;

(d) Put forward proposals to improve relevant international guidelines for national accounts;

(e) Put forward proposals to create some kind of medium (e.g. website, electronic discussion groups, etc.) to exchange best practices.

E. Timetable

151. The timetable for the work of the Group of Experts is as follows:

(a) Autumn 2007: Meeting of the leadership sub-group to make a proposal for a list and research agenda of the areas of national accounts most affected by the impact of globalization and to prepare a detailed work plan for the Group of Experts;

(b) February 2008: Presentation of the research agenda and work plan to the CES Bureau;

(c) April 2008: Meeting of the Group of Experts back-to-back with the Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Meeting on National Accounts;

(d) June 2008: Progress report to the Conference of European Statisticians;

(e) End 2008-beginning 2010: Two meetings of the leadership sub-group (possibly as a conference call) and two meetings of the Group of Experts;

(f) April 2010: Presentation of the Report with recommendations on how to deal with the distortions in national accounts and related source statistics to the Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Meeting on National Accounts;

(g) June 2010: Presentation of the Report to the Conference of European Statisticians.

XVI. TASK FORCE ON MEASURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Terms of Reference

Approved by the Bureau in February 2009 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/10). The work is undertaken jointly with Eurostat and OECD.

A. Background

152. The Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development (WGSSD) was commissioned by the CES in 2005 to develop a broad conceptual framework for measuring sustainable development based on the capital approach, and to identify a small set of indicators that could serve for international comparisons. As a result of its two years of work, the WGSSD prepared a *Report on Measuring Sustainable Development*. The WGSSD noted in the Report the need for further conceptual and methodological development to refine certain elements of the capital approach. The final version of the Report will be made available before the end of 2008. A print version is expected to be available by March 2009. With the finalization of this Report, the mandate of the WGSSD is fulfilled.

153. In February 2008, the CES Bureau reviewed the Report and recognized that many issues remain unresolved and can be further developed. The Bureau agreed on a proposal that a new Task Force be created. The proposal was presented to the plenary session of the CES in June 2008. The CES expressed general support for continuing the work in this area and recommended that the Bureau discuss how to proceed further at its October 2008 meeting.

154. In October 2008, the CES Bureau reviewed the first draft version of the Terms of Reference and provided a more detailed guidance on the work of a future Task Force. The Bureau made the following main recommendations:

(a) The indicators should be useful for policy makers and should allow comparison across time;

(b) The refinement of the small set of capital indicators should continue;

(c) The areas of social and human capital should be further developed.

B. Proposal

155. Taking into account the recommendations of the Conference and the Bureau, it is proposed that a Task Force on Measuring Sustainable Development be established.

C. Objective

156. The objective of the new Task Force should be to further pursue the conceptual development of the capital approach in identifying indicators to present the long-term dimension of sustainable development. In addition, indicators to present the distributional aspects under each capital indicator could be considered to respond to the needs of the policy makers. The work should focus on those indicators where further research is most likely to result in improved statistical concepts or methods.

157. The Task Force will produce a report to be presented to the Conference and its Bureau.

D. Mandate

158. The Task Force will further refine and, if necessary, expand the small set of indicators based on the capital approach proposed by the WGSSD in the Report on Measuring Sustainable Development and will also explore possibilities to include indicators that link the capital approach concept to policy-oriented indicators. The Task Force will examine the indicators in order to determine whether they capture the long-term conceptual perspective of the capital approach to measuring sustainable development.

159. The work will follow up on dimensions unresolved in the Report, focusing on but not limited to social and human capital. The Task Force could include in the set of indicators new or revised long-term social and human capital indicators that the Task Force might identify.

160. The Task Force will carry out further work on comparing the proposed indicators with the existing national and international indicator sets and assess their compatibility with the policy-oriented indicators, as well as their usefulness for both international and inter-temporal comparisons.

161. The Task Force will further explore the limits of the monetization methodologies and the monetary indicators and, where possible, advance them.

162. The Task Force will consider conducting a consultation with policy makers in order to validate the policy relevance of the indicators based on the capital approach among the CES member countries.

163. The Task Force will analyse the set of indicators from the point of view of data availability and resource implications for their compilation by official statisticians and others.

E. Governance and mode of operation

164. The Task Force will report to the CES Bureau. It will be a joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Task Force. The World Bank will be invited to contribute. Existing groups will be consulted on issues in specific domains (e.g. the London Group on environmental accounting, etc.).

165. The Task Force should consist of a limited number of experts selected from the statistical and academic communities who have the capacity to advance the theoretical aspects of the capital approach, address the challenges of policy relevance and implications, and develop further the links to official statistics.

166. The Task Force should be chaired by a statistician with experience and knowledge of the issues. The Chair will have the responsibility for ensuring that the Task Force fulfils its mandate and that its composition is balanced between statisticians and other experts. A leadership sub-group from among the Task Force members could be created to assist the Chair in managing the work.

167. The Task Force should develop a more detailed work plan at its first meeting, which will be presented for information to the CES Bureau. The Task Force will meet face-to-face at least once per year as agreed by the Chair and members. Much of the work is expected to be carried out electronically.

168. The UNECE will provide secretariat support to the work of the Task Force and its Chair. Eurostat and OECD will also provide support.

F. Timetable

169. The mandate of the Task Force will extend from March 2009 to June 2011. The Task Force will prepare interim reports for the Bureau meetings and for the Conference in 2010 and present its final report at the CES plenary session in June 2011.

XVII. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE MEETINGS ON CONSUMER PRICE INDICES

Terms of Reference

Approved by the Bureau in October 2007 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2007/OCT/8). The work is undertaken jointly with ILO.

A. Background

170. The joint UNECE/ILO meetings of the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices (CPIs) have been organised every two years since the early 1980's. The joint meetings are intergovernmental meetings and have been well attended by specialists from national statistical offices in the UNECE region as well as from other member countries of the ILO and representatives of other international organisations.

B. The purpose of the joint meetings on Consumer Price Indices

171. The purpose of the joint meetings is to support the development and implementation of internationally accepted standards and methods in the field of CPIs, thus improving the quality and international comparability of CPIs. The joint meetings also provide an opportunity for national experts to exchange views and experiences in the field of price statistics.

172. The meetings provide a forum for identifying best practices for compilation of CPIs. Special attention is paid to reduce existing gaps between UNECE member countries. The results and recommendations from the meetings also serves as input for the revision of the CPI Manual, including Supplementary Handbooks.

173. The reports and recommendations of good practices of the joint meetings and suggestions for future agendas are submitted to the Intersecretariat Working Group of Price Statistics (IWGPS).

C. The purpose of the Organising Committee

174. The purpose of the Committee is to assist the UNECE and the ILO in the preparation and follow-up of the joint CPI meetings. The Committee decides the future agenda items and the time and frequency of future meetings. The Committee may also propose experts that can contribute to the work on CPIs.

175. The Committee should take into account activities undertaken in the IWGPS and the Ottawa Group and other groups involved in price statistics. The Committee should make any effort to strengthen the coordination with activities in these groups and reduce possible overlap of work.

D. Work plan

176. Organisation of a one-day meeting for transition economies, focusing on the practical problems associated with the implementation of recommended CPI practices in economies in transition. The meeting will be organized back-to-back with the joint CPI meeting.

177. Conduction of a joint UNECE/ILO survey in national statistical offices in UNECE and ILO member countries and with main users of CPIs to obtain feedback on the usefulness of the CPI Manual. The result of this survey will be used to inform future joint meetings and future updates of the electronic version of the CPI Manual.

178. The report of the joint CPI meeting in 2008 and proposal for possible future work on CPIs will be submitted to the Bureau for it’s meeting in October 2008.

E. Members of the Organising Committee

179. The Committee is composed of five representatives of CES member countries, including the incoming Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the joint CPI meeting, and representatives from UNECE, ILO, Eurostat, OECD and IMF. Other experts can be invited if this is found useful.

F. Meetings of the Organising Committee

180. The Committee meets during the joint CPI meetings. It is envisaged that the Committee will review issues by means of electronic discussions in between the meetings.

G. Review of the mandate of the Organising Committee

181. In October 2009, the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians will review the mandate of the Organising Committee.

XVIII. ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE FORUM ON HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING IN STATISTICAL OFFICES

Terms of Reference

Approved by the Bureau in February 2009 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/19).

A. Background

182. The Forum on Human Resources Management and Training took place on 3-5 September 2008 in Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Forum recommended to continue international work in the area of human resources management and training in statistical offices.

183. The Bureau discussed future work in this area at its meeting in October 2008. The Bureau agreed that further work should focus on competencies in official statistics, training, and on how to attract and retain staff in statistical offices. The activities should lead to a concrete outcome and might involve organising a meeting on Human Resources in 2010.

184. The Bureau asked the UNECE Secretariat to prepare a more concrete proposal for follow-up activities in consultation with the Organising Committee that prepared the Forum held in Skopje in September 2008. The Bureau will consider this proposal at its meeting in February 2009.

B. Planned work

1. Outputs to be prepared

185. The Organising Committee proposes to prepare the following outputs in the areas recommended by the Bureau:

(a) Training
- A set of guidelines on how to apply e-learning,
- A collection of best practices on in-house training, and
- A set of recommendations on how to measure the efficiency of training activities.

(b) How to attract and retain staff
- A collection of best practices and possible recommendations.

2. Workshop on Human Resources in Statistical Offices

186. In order to obtain contributions and facilitate the preparation of the outputs, an international workshop on Human Resources in Statistical Offices should be organised in 2010. The workshop should focus on two topics: *Training* and *How to attract and retain staff in statistical offices*. The topics would be discussed in two main sessions that would involve the following issues:

187. Session 1: Training

(a) Training as a strategic issue in statistical offices;

(b) How to apply e-learning in training of staff in official statistics?

(c) How to plan and organise in-house training?

(d) The involvement of universities in the training of staff.

(e) How to ensure training is demand driven?

(f) How do we measure the efficiency, costs and benefits of training activities?

188. Session 2: How to attract and retain the staff for tomorrow?

(a) How to develop and implement a Human Resources Management Concept in official statistics (a strategic issue)?

(b) How to attract and retain the 'digital' generation and the most qualified staff?

(c) External vs internal recruitment;

(d) How to identify and train future leaders in official statistics?

(e) Career plans;

(f) Development of an inventory of staff survey questionnaires – or common/comparable standards?

189. It is suggested that the duration of the workshop be two and a half days, with one full day devoted to each of the two main topics. The last half day should be reserved for conclusions, information on other initiatives in HR, including work on competencies in official statistics undertaken by Eurostat, and for looking forward.

190. The target group for the meeting is HR managers and other staff involved in work on human resources, e.g. persons from the general management or from training units. The workshop should be interactive in its form with active participation and group work, interchanging with presentations and discussions of papers.

3. Organization of the workshop

191. The following offices/countries have expressed willingness to be on the Organising Committee preparing the workshop: the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, Statistics Canada, Statistics Norway, the Statistical Office of Macedonia, the Statistical Office of the Czech Republic, Eurostat, IMF and UNECE. The Federal Statistical Office of Germany and Statistics Norway have agreed to co-chair the Organising Committee. The Organising Committee is open to new members.

192. The Organising Committee would also be responsible for preparing the outputs of the workshop.

193. Statistical offices in member countries are invited to host the workshop, while the UNECE, as an alternative, has also offered to host the meeting in Geneva.

XIX. LIST OF MEETINGS PLANNED FROM JUNE 2009 TO JUNE 2010[11]

57th plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (**Geneva**) — 8-10 (a.m.) June 2009

[11] The exact dates of the meetings may still be subject to change

Better evidence for better results: measuring development and progress **(Geneva)**	10 (p.m.) June 2009
Meeting of the Task Force on Sustainable Development (organised jointly with Eurostat and OECD) (**Geneva)**	23-24 September 2009
Expert Group Meeting on Violence against Women (**Geneva**)	28-30 September 2009
Workshop on Short-term Statistics and Seasonal Adjustment **(Astana, Kazakhstan)**	28 September-2 October 2009
Workshop on Business Registers and their role in the Eastern UNECE region (**Luxembourg**)	5 October 2009
Sub-regional Meeting on MDG indicators for Central Asian Countries (**Astana, Kazakhstan**)	5-9 October 2009
Work Session on Statistical Data Editing (**Neuchâtel, Switzerland**)	5-7 October 2009
Regional Meeting on MDG Indicators (**Kazakhstan**)	5-7 October 2009
Group of Experts on Business Registers (organised jointly with Eurostat and OECD) (**Luxembourg**)	6-7 October 2009
Meeting on Quality of Employment (organised jointly with Eurostat and ILO) (**Geneva**)	14-16 October 2009
Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses (organised jointly with Eurostat) (**Geneva**)	28-30 October 2009
Sub-regional Workshop on Gender Statistics for South-East Europe **(Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)**	16-20 November 2009 (date to be confirmed)
Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality (**Bilbao, Spain**)	2-4 December 2009
Work Session on the Measurement of Health Status (**Geneva)**	20-22 January 2010
Workshop on Seasonal Adjustment (**Baku, Azerbaijan**)	February 2010 (date to be confirmed)
Expert Group Meeting on Violence against Women (**Geneva**)	17-19 February 2010
Work Session on Statistical Metadata (organised jointly with Eurostat and OECD) **(Geneva)**	10-12 March 2010

Work Session on Migration Statistics (organised jointly with Eurostat) **(Geneva)**	14-16 April 2010
Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (organised jointly with Eurostat and OECD) (**Republic of Korea**)	26-28 April 2010
Work Session on Gender Statistics and Workshop (**Geneva**)	26-30 April 2010
Group of Experts on National Accounts (organised jointly with Eurostat and OECD) (**Geneva**)	27-30 April 2010
Work Session on Demographic Projections (organised jointly with Eurostat) **(Lisbon, Portugal)**	28-30 April 2010
Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices (organised jointly with ILO) (**Geneva**)	May 2010 (date to be confirmed)
Work Session on the Communication and Dissemination of Statistics (**Paris** - *to be confirmed*)	26-28 May 2010 (date to be confirmed)

* * * * *