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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Sixty-fifth plenary session
Geneva, 19-21 June 2017
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Opening addresses and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda

The plenary session will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 9:30 on Monday, 19 June 2017.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening addresses and adoption of the agenda

2. Matters arising from the 67th session of Economic Commission for Europe and the 48th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

3. Measuring poverty

4. The next generation of statisticians and data scientists

5. Integrating geospatial data and official statistics

6. Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics

7. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference:

    (a) Guide on poverty measurement

    (b) Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals – Road Map

    (c) Set of key climate change-related indicators

    (d) Value of official statistics

    (e) Unpaid household work

    (f) Communicating population projections

8. Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region:

  (a) Outcomes of the in-depth reviews carried out by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

  (b) Exchange and sharing of economic data.

9. Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:

  (a) Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists;

  (b) Programme planning documents for the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

10. Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2018 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians

11. Election of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

12. Other business

13. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting

II. Annotations

The sixty-fifth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) will convene at the request of the sixty-fourth CES plenary session (ECE/CES/91) and in accordance with the *Rules Governing the Work of the Conference and its Bureau* (CES/2007/8).

1. Opening addresses and adoption of the agenda

The final provisional agenda and timetable was agreed upon by the CES Bureau at its February 2017 meeting. The provisional agenda is presented for the approval of the Conference.

2. Matters arising from the 67th session of Economic Commission for Europe and the 48th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

The agenda item will focus on the implications of the decisions of the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) on the work of CES.

3. Measuring poverty

This part of the CES plenary session will be organized in a seminar format. Israel, Mexico and UNECE will organize and chair the discussion.

Poverty is of high importance for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which emphasizes that "nobody should be left behind". The Agenda includes two Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targeting poverty and inequality: Goal 1 "End poverty in all its

forms everywhere" and Goal 10 "Reduce inequality within and among countries". Several other goals concern different aspects of poverty, such as Goal 2 on hunger and Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth. The seminar will discuss methodological challenges of measuring poverty and consider the way forward with the poverty-related indicators in the 2030 Agenda.

(a) **Topic 1: Methodological challenges in poverty measurement**

The session will be organized by Israel. The main topics of the session include: use of complementary data sources for measuring monetary poverty and deprivation; leaving no one behind and the related challenges in measuring poverty in vulnerable groups; measuring poverty in all its dimensions; and considering social transfers in estimating poverty rates. The session will rely on contributions from Israel, Mexico, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland and Eurostat.

(b) **Topic 2: Comparability of poverty measures across countries and over time**

The session will be organized by Austria. The discussion will focus on how to improve comparability of indicators for the 2030 Agenda and how to ensure adequate measurement and communication of poverty trends over time when data sources are changing. The session will rely on contributions from Austria, Norway, Russian Federation and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT).

(c) **Topic 3: The way forward**

The concluding session, organized by Mexico, will discuss proposals for future work, based on the new CES *Guide on Poverty Measurement*, a paper by OECD and other material presented at the seminar. The aim is to decide on issues on which CES could focus its methodological work on poverty measurement.

4. The next generation of statisticians and data scientists

This part of the CES plenary session will be organized in a seminar format. Finland and Eurostat will organize and chair the discussion.

The seminar will discuss the skills and capabilities needed to address the challenges arising from the new data-driven world where statistics should be better integrated to support policy and decision making. The seminar will consider how the skill sets are challenged by the increasing demands for statistics, fast technological changes, new data sources, such as Big Data, and other current developments.

(a) **Topic 1: How can an official statistician become a data scientist?**

The session will be organized by Eurostat. The discussion will focus on the challenges and solutions for developing and building the necessary data science skills and competencies that allow statistical offices to stay competitive in the information industry. The session will also reflect on the skill set required when dealing with uncertainty about available data sources, increasing complexity and the need to integrate unstructured data from multiple sources to provide data analytics as part of statistical services. The session will touch upon the idea of Smart Statistics and its requirements for future statisticians.

(b) **Topic 2: The future roles of statisticians**

The session will be organized by Finland. The discussion will focus on future requirements for the competencies and skills needed at national statistical offices to meet the ever-

changing demand from users and the necessary transformations of statistical production. Statistical offices can adapt to future challenges by considering a mixture of developments: i) organization of the office, ii) the office's ability to utilize new data sources and new data collection techniques, iii) statistical office's understanding of the specific decision problems and iv) the statistical office's ability to foster users' understanding of statistics. These aspects also define the competence needs of future statisticians.

(c) **Topic 3: Are universities training students to work in national statistical offices?**

The session will be organized by Eurostat. The discussion will focus on how universities are taking into account the advancement in technology and preparing students to work in modern statistics. Big Data pose new demands for more detailed, more accurate and timelier official statistics. Issues that will have to be studied and addressed include: collection and management of Big Data for official statistics; privacy and protection of data from Big Data sources; increasing data accessibility but maintaining confidentiality; possible use of web-panels and mode effects; utilizing social network data; integration of administrative data and Big Data with surveys and censuses.

(d) **Topic 4: Summary and conclusions**

This part of the seminar will collate proposals for future work and actions to develop the skill profile of statisticians and support statistical offices in the transformation. The session aims at drafting a two-pager with a joint vision on *the next generation of statisticians and data scientists*. Statistics Finland will act as a pen-holder.

5. Integrating geospatial data and official statistics

The April 2016 CES seminar on geospatial information services based on official statistics recognized the growing importance of integrating statistical and geospatial information and discussed the way forward. In July 2016, ECOSOC adopted a resolution 2016/27 on strengthening the institutional arrangements on geospatial information management, and requested the Regional Commissions to discuss with their member States the implementation of the Resolution.

The Conference will be invited to consider the developments since the discussions by the CES Bureau and the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) on the coordination of work between the regional body of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM Europe) and the Conference of European Statisticians.

6. Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics

The High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) was set up to guide strategic developments in the ways official statistics are produced. The Conference has expressed strong support for the work, endorsed the vision and the strategy for modernizing official statistics, and decided that HLG-MOS should present annual reports to the CES plenary session.

The HLG will submit its annual report on its work to the Conference for approval. The Conference will also be invited to endorse the standards developed under HLG-MOS, such as the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM), the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA), and the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisations (GAMSO). Furthermore, the

Conference will be invited to discuss the outcomes of recent projects in the area of statistical modernisation.

7. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference

Six documents are planned to be submitted to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(a) Guide on poverty measurement

The *Guide on Poverty Measurement* was prepared by a Task Force, set up by the CES Bureau in February 2014. The objective was to develop guidelines and provide recommendations for improving the international comparability and availability of statistics on poverty and the related metadata.

The CES Bureau reviewed the Guide at its February 2017 meeting, and requested the Secretariat to conduct an electronic consultation with all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Guide will be submitted to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(b) Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals – Road Map

A Steering Group (co-chaired by Switzerland and the United States), set up by the CES Bureau in February 2016 has developed a CES *Road Map on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals.* The Road Map will present a strategy on how to provide statistics for SDGs, and guide the CES members in implementing the *Declaration on the role of national statistical offices in measuring and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals,* that the Conference adopted in 2015.

The CES Bureau reviewed the draft Road Map at its February 2017 meeting, and requested the Secretariat to conduct an electronic consultation with all CES members before the CES plenary session. The draft will be also discussed at an Expert Meeting on statistics for SDGs on 10-12 April 2017 in Geneva. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation and the Expert Meeting discussions, the Road Map will be submitted to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement as a First Edition. The Road Map will be updated in the next years to take into account the developments related to statistics for SDGs.

(c) Set of key climate change-related indicators

The *Set of Key Climate Change-related Indicators* has been prepared by a Task Force (chaired by Italy), established by the CES Bureau in October 2014. The objective was to define an internationally comparable set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators that can be derived from the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and other sources. The work takes into account SDGs and other relevant issues raised in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) decided in March 2016 that a global set of key climate change-related indicators and statistics should be developed based on the outcomes of the CES Task Force.

The CES Bureau reviewed the Set of Indicators at its February 2017 meeting, and requested the Secretariat to conduct an electronic consultation with all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Set of Indicators will be submitted to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(d)   Value of official statistics

The *Recommendations on Value of Official Statistics* and a measurement framework were developed by a Task Force (chaired by the United Kingdom), established by the CES Bureau in May 2015. The work was launched as a follow-up to the CES 2014 seminar "What is the value of official statistics and how do we communicate that value?". The report provides recommendations on creating, communicating and measuring the value of official statistics that will allow for better understanding and communication of this value to society. The Recommendations take into account the feedback received from a consultation of the interim report carried out at the beginning of 2016 and the discussion at the CES plenary session in April 2016.

The CES Bureau reviewed the Recommendations at its February 2017 meeting, and requested the Secretariat to conduct an electronic consultation with all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Recommendations will be submitted to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(e)   Unpaid household work

The *Guide on Valuing Unpaid Household Service Work* was prepared by a Task Force (chaired by the United Kingdom), set up by the CES Bureau in October 2014. The Guide discusses concepts and definitions, measurement approaches and valuation techniques of unpaid household service work, which is an emerging area for the statistical community. The Guide also provides assistance with first steps towards the development of a satellite account on household production.

The CES Bureau reviewed the Guide at its February 2017 meeting, and requested the Secretariat to conduct an electronic consultation with all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Guide will be submitted to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(f)   Communicating population projections

The *Recommendations on the Communication of Population Projections* were prepared by a Task Force (chaired by Canada), set up by the CES Bureau in February 2015. The objectives of the Task Force were to promote the sharing of good practices on communicating population projections, and create mechanisms for collecting and disseminating metadata on national and international population projections.

The CES Bureau reviewed the Recommendations at its February 2017 meeting, and requested the Secretariat to conduct an electronic consultation with all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Guide will be submitted to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement.

8.   Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

This agenda item concerns the decisions that the Conference is expected to take regarding the coordination of international statistical work in the UNECE region.

The Conference will be informed about the outcomes of in-depth reviews of selected statistical areas carried out by the CES Bureau. These reviews are important tools of coordination to address emerging issues and identify gaps or duplication of work. The reviews focus on strategic issues and highlight concerns of statistical offices of both a conceptual and a coordinating nature.

(a) **Outcomes of the in-depth reviews carried out by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians**

The Conference will consider short reports on the outcomes of the in-depth reviews carried out by the CES Bureau since the previous CES plenary session in June 2016. The CES Bureau reviewed 'Governance statistics' in October 2016, and 'Data integration' in February 2017. The Conference will be invited to endorse the outcomes of these in-depth reviews.

(b) **Exchange and sharing of economic data**

The CES Bureau reviewed the exchange of economic data and data sharing in-depth in October 2016 and discussed the follow-up in February 2017. In view of the many challenges in this area, the Bureau decided that this topic should be discussed at the CES plenary session to seek input from all CES members for further work in this area.

9. Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

(a) **Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists**

The Conference will be invited to approve the reports related to the UNECE statistical work programme as follows:

(i)   Report on the implementation of the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2016 (ECE/CES/2017/15), as agreed by the CES Bureau in February 2017;

(ii)   Reports of the CES Bureau meetings, progress reports of Teams of Specialists (Steering Groups and Task Forces) and reports of expert meetings.

(b) **Programme planning documents for the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

The Conference will be invited to review and adopt the official planning documents of the Statistics subprogramme prepared in the context of the United Nations Secretariat's biennial planning and reporting cycle:

(i)   UNECE Statistical Programme for 2017 (ECE/CES/2017/14), as agreed by the CES Bureau in October 2016. The document is in line with the Programme of Work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2016-2017 (ECE/CES/2015/16), adopted by the Conference in June 2015;

(ii)   Programme of Work and the Publication Programme of the UNECE Statistics subprogramme for 2018-2019 (ECE/CES/2017/13), as agreed by the CES Bureau in February 2017. The document is in line with the Strategic Framework of the Statistics subprogramme for 2018-2019 (ECE/CES/2016/13), adopted by the Conference in April 2016. Once adopted, the Programme of Work for 2018-2019 will be submitted for approval to the UNECE Executive Committee.

10. Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2018 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians

The Conference will select topics for the CES seminars in 2018 based on a proposal by the CES Bureau. The proposal will reflect the results of an electronic survey to be carried out

by the Secretariat in spring 2017 among the CES member countries and international organizations.

11. Election of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

The current term of all members of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians expires at the closing of the 2017 plenary session, on 21 June. At the 2017 plenary session, therefore, elections for Chair and Vice-Chairs will be held for the two-year period from June 2017 to June 2019.

12. Other business

Any additional issues that the Conference needs to be informed of can be taken up under this agenda item.

13. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting

A draft report of the CES plenary session, including the main decisions, will be adopted at the end of the meeting (in English only). A detailed report will be prepared after the Conference and will be sent for comments to all participants. The finalised report will be translated into French and Russian.

III. Organization of work

A detailed timetable will be made available on the official website of the Conference (www.unece.org/stats/documents/2017.06.ces.html) before the plenary session.

Date	Item/Programme
Monday, 19 June	
09:30-09:40	1
09:40-09:50	2
09:50-16:00	3, 7 (a)
16:00-16:30	5
16:30-17:30	6
Tuesday, 20 June	
09:30-16:00	4
16:00-17:30	7 (b), 7 (d)
Wednesday, 21 June	
09:30-10:00	7 (c), 7 (e), 7 (f)
10:00-11:20	8
11:20-11:35	9
11:35-11:45	10
11:45-11:55	11
11:55-12:30	12, 13