



**Economic and Social  
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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Forty-ninth plenary session  
(Geneva, 11-13 June 2001)

**Annotated provisional agenda of the 2001 plenary session**

The plenary session will start at 2:30 p.m. on Monday 11 June. The meetings on Tuesday 12 June and Wednesday 13 June will take place from 9:30-12:30 and 14:30-17:30. The plenary session will be held in a Salle of the Palais des Nations in Geneva in the E-Building (the Salle will be announced later). Delegates should arrive at the Palais des Nations no later than 2:00 on Monday 11 June to allow time for security clearance and registration. More general information is given in document CES/2001/INF.1.

Documents for the meeting may be downloaded from the Web site that has been specially prepared for this meeting:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2001.06.ces.htm>

**Introduction**

1. The Conference's attention is drawn to agenda items 3 and 7 that are the key items on the agenda of this year's plenary session:

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**Item 3 - Integrated presentation and co-ordination of international statistical work in the ECE**

**region:** In order to have a more focused discussion under this item, the Bureau has decided to divide the time allocation for this agenda into four parts. Three of those parts are for the three programme elements that the Bureau has selected for having an in-depth review. That refers to discussion of (a) The growing use of the internet for the collection and dissemination of statistics (part of PEs 2.1 and 2.3, to be discussed on the basis of papers that are to be contributed by the United Kingdom and the ECE secretariat, **CES/2001/5-6**); (b) New manuals and standards in the field of economic statistics, and their inter-relationships and relationship with SNA '93 (parts of PEs 3.1 and 3.2, to be discussed on the basis of a paper contributed by the IMF, **CES/2001/7**); and (c) Measuring the new economy, and adapting to it (a subject that cross-cuts several PEs in the field of economic statistics, to be discussed on the basis of papers contributed by Canada and the OECD **CES/2001/8-9**). The fourth segment has been reserved for general discussion on the possible future of the Integrated Presentation (**CES/2001/10-11**) and aspects of the Integrated Presentation that members of the Conference notified the secretariat in writing prior to the plenary session that they wished to raise for discussion at the plenary session (**CES/2001/11/Add.1**).

- **Item 7 - "Small area statistics, and statistics for small countries"** is the topic for substantive discussion at this year's plenary session. The National Statistical Institute of Spain has organised the preparations for this session and it will chair the session. This session will be in the form of a seminar, and it will last about a day but has a tight timetable and will finish at 4:30 on Wednesday. More information is given in the notes below.
2. The Conference is expected to complete most of its work by 4:45 on Wednesday, 13 June. The final 45 minutes of the plenary session will be devoted to the election of a new Bureau (15 minutes) and to the adoption of the report of the plenary session (30 minutes). The session is expected to finish its business by 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday.
  3. The documents intended for discussion are listed in the agenda shown in the table on page 3. Annex I lists additional background documents that have been produced as part of the documentation of the plenary session. These background documents are NOT intended to be discussed at the plenary session, unless members of the Conference wish to do so in discussion under item 3 of the agenda. All the documents for the meeting will be distributed in the usual way, but they will also be available on the ECE World Wide Web page in English, French and Russian as they become available. The address is as follows:  
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2001.06.ces.htm>
  4. **Item 8: Election of the Bureau:** It should also be noted that term of office of the Bureau of the Conference expires at the closing of the 2001 plenary session. Therefore, the Conference is expected to elect a new Bureau for the coming two-year period. Additional information on this is given in the notes for this item below.

**Provisional agenda and timetable suggested by the Bureau**

Time	Item	Topic	Document
<b>Monday, 11 June (2:30 - 5:30)</b>			
2:30-2:40	1	<b>OPENING ADDRESSES and ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</b>	ECE/CES/59
2:40-2:45	8	<b>INTRODUCTION TO THE BUREAU ELECTIONS</b>	CES/2001/22
2:45-3:15	2	<b>MEETINGS OF THE PARENT BODIES OF THE CES</b> (and of other important UN conferences) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The May 2001 session of the Economic Commission for Europe</li> <li>• The March 2001 session of the UN Statistical Commission</li> <li>• The "Rio + 10" Conference</li> </ul>	CES/2001/1
2:45-2:55			CES/2001/2
2:55-3:05			CES/2001/1/Add.1
3:05-3:15			CES/2001/12
3:15-3:30	4	<b>INTEGRATING THE METADATA SYSTEMS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS</b>	CES/2001/12
3:30-3:45	5	<b>OUTCOME OF THE MONTREUX CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	CES/2001/23
3:45	3	<b>INTEGRATED PRESENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE ECE REGION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman's introductory comments</li> </ul> Coffee/tea break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Internet and the dissemination of statistics (parts of PEs 2.1 and 2.3)</li> <li>• New manuals and standards in the field of economic statistics, and their inter-relationships and relationship with SNA '93 (parts of PE 3.1 and 3.2) (Introduction)</li> </ul>	CES/2001/3 And Adda. 1-7
3:45-3:50			---
3:50-4:15			---
4:15-5:15			CES/2001/5-6
5:15-5:30			CES/2001/7
<b>Tuesday, 12 June (9:30-12:30 and 2:30-5:30)</b>			
9:30-10:20	3 cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New manuals and standards in economic statistics ... (cont.)</li> <li>• Measuring the new economy, and adapting to it (this topic cross-cuts several PEs in the field of economic statistics)</li> </ul> Coffee/tea break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The future of the Integrated Presentation</li> </ul>	---
10:20-11:20			CES/2001/8-9
11:20-11:45			---
11:45-12:30			CES/2001/10 CES/.../10/Add1
2:30-3:00	3cont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other aspects of the Integrated Presentation</li> </ul>	CES/2001/11, 4 & 3/Adda 1-7
3:00	7	<b>SMALL AREA STATISTICS, AND STATISTICS FOR SMALL COUNTRIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> </ul> Theme 1: Collection of statistics in small countries	---
3:00-3:15			CES/2001/14-17
3:15-5:30			CES/2001/14-17
<b>Wednesday, 13 June (9:30 - 12:30 and 2:30 - 5:15)</b>			
9:30-10:00	7 cont.	Theme 1 (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme 2: Small area statistics (&amp; Tea Break)</li> </ul> Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme 2 (cont.)</li> </ul> Tea break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concluding comments on Themes 1 and 2</li> </ul>	CES/2000/18-21
10:00-12:30			
12:30-2:30			
2:30-3:30			
3:30-3:55			
3:55-4:05			
4:05-4:30	6	<b>PLANS FOR THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PLENARY SESSION OF THE CES</b>	CES/2001/13
4:30-4:40	8	<b>ELECTION OF BUREAU</b> (continued)	CES/2001/22
4:40-5:15	9	<b>ADOPTION OF THE REPORT</b>	Draft report

## **Explanatory notes to the agenda**

### **Item 1: Adoption of the agenda, and consideration of the procedures to be followed at the plenary session**

The Bureau of the Conference proposed this provisional agenda and timetable at its February 2001 meeting. The provisional agenda and timetable are presented in more detail in this document for the approval of the Conference. To help ensure that the plenary session is as short and as effective as possible, the procedures that the Conference approved at its 1994 session for improving the efficiency of the CES plenary sessions and applied at all subsequent sessions (**CES/821**) will be applied again during the 2001 session.

### **Item 2: Implications of meetings of the Conference's parent bodies**

#### a) The May 2001 session of the Economic Commission for Europe

Information on the discussions held at the May 2001 session of the Economic Commission for Europe and on resolutions and decisions taken at it that have a bearing on the work of the Conference will be presented in **CES/2001/1**.

#### b) The March 2001 meeting of the UN Statistical Commission

Information on the conclusions reached and on the decisions taken at the March 2001 meeting of the UN Statistical Commission that may have a bearing on the work of the Conference and on international statistical work affecting ECE, EU and OECD countries will be presented in **CES/2001/2**.

#### c) The ECE regional preparatory meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Representatives of the ECE Environment and Human settlements Division will inform the Conference on preparations for the ECE regional preparatory meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held on 24 and 25 September 2001. The meeting is expected to review the regional assessment and to adopt a Declaration.

### **Item 3: Integrated presentation and co-ordination of international statistical work affecting ECE, EU and OECD countries**

In accordance with recent practise, under this agenda item the Conference will discuss three fields of statistics that will be considered in greater detail, on the basis of papers that countries and international organisations have contributed as a basis for discussion. Details on the three fields of statistics and on the papers in question are outlined in the notes on agenda item 3 that are given in para. 1 of the introduction of this note.

This agenda item is also concerned with issues affecting the co-ordination of international statistical work relating to ECE, EU and OECD countries and with decisions that the Conference is expected to take on both its own work programme and the work programme of the ECE's Population Activities Unit at each plenary

session. In addition, as part of its responsibilities for co-ordinating international statistical work in the ECE region, under this agenda item the Conference is also expected, when it deems it appropriate, to offer guidance and advice to other international and supranational organisations and to other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies on the statistically-related work that they plan to undertake in their work programmes in the future that is relevant for ECE, Eurostat and OECD countries. To assist the Conference in performing these responsibilities, a considerable amount of **reference material** is presented in the Integrated Presentation on the planned future work of different international organisations in the 45 fields of statistics covered in the Integrated Presentation (**CES/2001/3 and addenda 1-7**). However, this reference material is not expected to figure prominently in the discussion. It should be noted that information is given in the Annex of **CES/2001/3** on the secretariat resources which are expected to be available to the ECE secretariat during the one-year period following the 2001 plenary session for servicing the Conference's work programme.

The complete Integrated Presentation is too large and too wide-ranging to produce in a single document. Therefore, it is presented in several addenda. Each of these documents contains brief descriptions of the conclusions reached by the Bureau in its review of the work that was carried out in the Conference's work programme since the 2000 plenary session and in its review of work planned to be carried out in the next two years. For convenience, these conclusions of the Bureau are also brought together and presented in summary form in a much shorter single document (**CES/2001/4**). In each field of statistics that is included in the Integrated Presentation, the Bureau's proposals for decisions by the Conference are also listed clearly, under a heading for these recommended decisions.

Finally, under this agenda item the Conference is also expected to discuss the possible future development of the Integrated Presentation, on the basis of papers contributed by the United Kingdom (**CES/2001/10**), an ECE consultancy paper by Louis Kincannon (**CES/2001/10/Add.1**) and of a joint paper by Eurostat and the OECD and ECE secretariats (**CES/2001/11**).

Document **CES/2001/3/Add.7** is also an important document. It contains up-to-date information on the outcome of work conducted in projects in the Conference's work programme during the period since the Bureau's meeting in January.

#### **Item 4: Integrating the metadata systems of international organisations**

Under this agenda item the Conference will be informed of the outcome of the work session on statistical metadata (Washington, November 2000), and particularly to the proposal by the IMF that its Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) serve as an anchor for statistical metadata and that the common XML-based language for statistical metadata and data be developed. The IMF will contribute a paper on this for the plenary session (**CES/2001/12**).

**Item 5: Outcome of the IAOS Conference on Statistics, Development and Human Rights (Montreux, September 2000)**

The Conference will be informed under this agenda item of the outcome of the IAOS Conference on Statistics, Development and Human Rights that the IAOS organised in Montreux, Switzerland, in September 2000 jointly with the Swiss Federal statistical Office and the Swiss Development and Co-operation agency (CES/2001/23).

**Item 6: Plans for the Fiftieth Anniversary Plenary Session of the CES**

Under this agenda item the Conference will be informed of plans for the fiftieth anniversary plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians, which at the invitation of the OECD is scheduled to take place in Paris from 10-12 June 2002, on the basis of a paper prepared by the Chairman of the Conference and the Director of the ECE Statistical Division (CES/2001/13).

**Item 7: Seminar session, "Small area statistics, and statistics for small countries"**

Each year the plenary session has the opportunity to discuss, in the form of a seminar, a topic of particular interest to heads of national statistical offices. On this occasion the members of the Conference are invited to comment in substantive discussion on the topic "Small area statistics, and statistics for small countries". At the request of the Bureau, this year's seminar has been organised by Carmen Alcaide, President of the National Statistical Institute of Spain.

The seminar is organised into two different themes. The first theme deals with the collection of statistics in small countries, and there are two Invited Papers by Ireland and Latvia (CES/2001/14 and 15) as well as a small number of Supporting Papers by other countries (CES/2001/16-17 and addenda) relating to this theme. The second theme is concerned with strategies and approaches for small area statistics, and there are two Invited Papers by Canada and the United Kingdom (CES/2001/18 and 19) as well as a few Supporting Papers by other countries (CES/2001/20-21 and addenda) relating to this theme. Additional details on the seminar session are presented in the references to item 7 in para. 1 of the introduction of this provisional agenda.

A report of the discussion will not be adopted at the end of the session (see notes to agenda item 8, below), but a summary will be distributed to participants within about two weeks of the plenary session.

**Item 8: Election of CES Bureau members for 2001-2003**

Under this agenda item the Conference is expected to elect six persons to serve on the CES Bureau for the two-year period commencing with the closing of the 2001 plenary session.

The term of office of all five persons who are currently serving on the Bureau will expire with the closing of the 2001 plenary session. All five of these Bureau members are eligible to be re-elected to the new Bureau. The election is also open to all delegates who are heads of national statistical offices, including previous

Chairs and Vice-Chairs. The procedures to be followed in electing the new Bureau were approved by the Conference at its 1991 plenary session (see **CES/2001/22**).

In accordance with the procedures agreed by the Conference at the 1991 plenary session, the process of electing the new Bureau will be carried out by Carlo Malaguerra, President of the Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland, who is the most senior former Chairman of the Conference. After discussions with delegates, he will make proposals that will be submitted to the Conference for approval.

#### **Item 9: Adoption of the report, and closing of the plenary session**

The Conference is expected to adopt the report of the 2001 plenary session before it adjourns. To enable this to be accomplished as quickly as possible and during the limited time available, the Bureau has asked the secretariat to follow the same procedure that was used at recent plenary sessions. The report will therefore be short and will be limited as far as possible to decisions taken by the Conference during the course of the plenary session. Since the discussion that takes place at the seminar session (agenda item 7) is not expected to lead to decisions, the draft report will not include a record of that discussion. However, as noted above, a summary of it will be prepared after the plenary session and mailed to all members of the Conference within about two weeks. That summary will also be incorporated in the final report of the plenary session that will be produced a month or so after the plenary session. The final report of the plenary session will also be made available on the ECE's Web site for the plenary session.

Delegates are asked to confine their suggestions for amendments to the report to those of a substantive nature (i.e. to correcting important errors or omissions). They are also asked to hand in any proposed new text in writing and if possible in English before the discussion of the adoption of the report.

The secretariat will distribute each part of the draft report as soon as it becomes available during the meeting, in each of ECE's three official working languages.

**Annex I: List of background documents for the 2001 plenary session**

The following supplementary documents contain **background information** for several items of the provisional agenda. They are listed below by agenda item number. The Bureau considers that none of the documents listed below need be discussed at the plenary session. The documents intended for **discussion** at the plenary session are listed in the table on page three of this document.

<b>Agenda item 1</b>	<b><u>Document</u></b>
Procedures to be followed for ensuring efficient plenary sessions	CES/821
<b>Agenda item 3</b>	
<u>Programme activity 1: Organisation and operation of statistical services</u>	
PE 1.2: Report of the October 2000 meeting of the CES Bureau	CES/BUR.2001/12
PE 1.2: Report of the January 2001 meeting of the CES Bureau	CES/BUR.2001/23
<u>Programme activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues</u>	
PE 2.1: Report of the February 2001 meeting on the management of statistical information technology	CES/AC.71/2001/2
PE 2.1: Report of the March 2001 work session on statistical data confidentiality	CES/2001/31
PE 2.2: Report of the October 2000 work session on statistical data editing	CES/2001/27
PE 2.3: Report of the September 2000 work session on statistical output for dissemination to the information media	CES/2001/24
PE 2.3: Report of the November 2000 work session on statistical metadata	CES/2001/30
<u>Programme activity 3: Economic statistics</u>	
PE 3.1: Report of the September 2000 ECE special session for transition countries following the OECD's meeting on national accounts	CES/2001/25
PE 3.1: Report on the May 2001 workshop on national accounts for CITs	CES/AC.68/2001/2
PE 3.9: Report of the October 2000 joint consultation on the European Comparison Programme 2000	CES/2001/29
PE 3.10: Report of the July 2000 seminar on agricultural economic statistics	CES/SEM.44/2
PE 3.10: Report of the June 2001 world conference on agricultural statistics	CES/AC.61/2001/2
<u>Programme activity 4: Social and demographic statistics</u>	
PE 4.1: Report of the May 2001 work session on migration statistics	CES/2001/32
PE 4.9: Report of the October 2000 preparatory meeting on health statistics	CES/2001/28
PE 4.10: Report of the October 2000 work session on gender statistics	CES/2001/26

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