



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/CES/63
25 March 2003

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Fifty-first plenary session
(Geneva, 10-12 June 2003)

Annotated provisional agenda of the 2003 plenary session

The 51st Plenary Session will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from Tuesday, 10 June until Thursday, 12 June 2003. The meeting will commence at 14:30 on Tuesday, 10 June. The meetings on Wednesday, 11 June and Thursday 12 June will take place from 9:30-12:30 and 14:30-17:30. Delegates should arrive at the Palais des Nations no later than 14:00 on Tuesday, 10 June to allow time for security clearance and registration. More general information is given in document CES/2003/INF.1. Documents for the meeting may be downloaded from the ECE Web site at:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2003.06.ces.htm>

Introduction

1. The 50th Conference of European Statisticians decided to change the way it works in order to better respond to the rapidly changing world and to ensure that its work continues to be of priority interest to different groups of countries in the ECE region. It also reviewed the format and structure of its future plenary sessions and decided that they would include a formal session and two seminar sessions. The formal session would deal with the review of general issues such as the international statistical work in the region, while the two seminar sessions would focus on foundational issues of statistical systems and on new emerging issues.
2. The 2003 plenary session of the Conference will follow the new format in organising the sessions. The two seminar sessions will deal with Statistical Confidentiality and Globalization. These topics were selected by the Bureau following a consultation with the members of the Conference.
3. An annotated provisional agenda, a tentative timetable for the 2003 plenary session and the documents intended for discussion are presented in the table on pages 2-3. Annex I lists additional documents that have been produced for information for the CES. All the documents for the meeting will be distributed in the usual way, but they will also be posted on the ECE Web site as they become available.

Provisional agenda and timetable

Time	Item	Topic	Document
Tuesday, 10 June (14:30-17:30)			
14:30-14:50	1	OPENING ADDRESSES and ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	ECE/CES/63
14:50-17:30		GENERAL ISSUES	
14:50-15:05 15:05-15:30 15:30-15:50	2	MEETINGS OF THE PARENT BODIES OF THE CES -The March 2003 session of the ECE -The March 2003 session of the UN Statistical Commission <i>Coffee/tea break</i>	CES/2003/1 CES/2003/2
15:50-16:00 16:00-17:30	3	INTEGRATED PRESENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE ECE REGION Chairman's introductory comments Comments on the Integrated Presentation	CES/2003/3 and Adda. 1-7 CES/2003/4 CES/2003/6
Wednesday, 11 June (9:30-12:30 and 14:30-17:30)			
9:30-16:30		FIRST SEMINAR SESSION ON NEW EMERGING ISSUES	
9:30-12:30	4	Seminar on "GLOBALIZATION" Chairman: Phillip Smith (Canada) Session I: Gauging the globalization phenomenon itself Presentations: Ulrich Heilemann (CEIES) Andrew Wyckoff (OECD) <i>Coffee/tea break</i> Session II: Impact of globalization on traditional statistical systems Papers by: Steve Landefeld (BEA, United States) Robin Lynch (ONS, United Kingdom) Jean-Pierre Grandjean (INSEE, France)	CES/2003/15 CES/2003/18 CES/2003/17 CES/2003/16
12:30-14:30		LUNCH	

Time	Item	Topic	Document
Wednesday, 11 June (9:30-12:30 and 14:30-17:30) (cont.)			
14:30-17:00	4	Seminar on "GLOBALIZATION" (cont.) Session III: Globalization questions to which users of statistics want answers Keynote speaker: Gov. David Dodge (Governor of the Bank of Canada) <i>Coffee/tea break</i> Session IV: International statistical cooperation Papers by: Carol Carson (IMF) Richard Barnabé (Statistics Canada)	CES/2003/14 CES/2003/13
17:00-17:30	5	SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR SEMINARS TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION	
Thursday, 12 June (9:30-12:30 and 14:30-17:30)			
9:30-16:45		SECOND SEMINAR SESSION ON FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES OF STATISTICAL SYSTEMS	
9:30-12:30	6	Seminar on "STATISTICAL CONFIDENTIALITY AND MICRODATA" Chairman: Mr. Svante Öberg (Statistics Sweden) Session I: Overview and use of microdata General overview of statistical confidentiality and access to microdata (Statistics Sweden) Keynote speech on the use of microdata: Julia Lane (The Urban Institute and the US Census Bureau) <i>Coffee/tea break</i> Session II: Data Confidentiality Paper by the Russian Federation Supporting paper by the ECE secretariat on the results of a survey conducted in the transition economies	CES/2003/7 CES/2003/9 CES/2003/8 CES/2003/5
12:30-14:30		LUNCH	
14:30-16:45	6	Seminar on "STATISTICAL CONFIDENTIALITY AND MICRODATA" (cont.) Session III: Legal aspects on microdata Presentations: Access to microdata in the Nordic countries Recent EU legislation (Eurostat) <i>Coffee/tea break</i> Session IV: Access to microdata – issues, organisation and approaches Paper by ABS, Australia	CES/2003/10 CES/2003/11 CES/2003/12
16:45-17:00	7	ELECTION OF THE BUREAU	
17:00-17:30	8	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	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

4. The Bureau of the Conference proposed this provisional agenda and timetable at its February 2003 meeting. The provisional agenda and timetable are presented in more detail in this document for the approval of the Conference.

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

a) The March 2003 session of the Economic Commission for Europe

5. Information on the discussions held at the March 2003 session of the Economic Commission for Europe and on resolutions and decisions taken thereat that have a bearing on the work of the Conference will be presented in **CES/2003/1**.

b) The March 2003 meeting of the UN Statistical Commission

6. Information on the conclusions reached and on the decisions taken at the March 2003 meeting of the UN Statistical Commission that may have a bearing on the work of the Conference will be presented in **CES/2003/2**.

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

7. Under this agenda item the Conference will discuss a limited number of fields of statistics that will be considered in greater detail. The topics to be reviewed in greater depth will be communicated by the Bureau in advance of the Conference.

8. 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 its own work programme. In addition, as part of its responsibilities for co-ordinating international statistical work in the ECE region, 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.

9. A considerable amount of reference material is presented in the Integrated Presentation on the planned future work of different international organisations (**CES/2003/3 and addenda 1-7**). The complete Integrated Presentation is too large to produce in a single document. Therefore, it is presented in several addenda. Addenda 1-6 present information on the 6 Programme Activities of the Integrated Presentation. Addendum 7 contains up-to-date information on the outcome of work conducted during the period since the Bureau's meeting in February 2003.

10. As decided by the Bureau in February 2003, an excerpt of the Integrated Presentation (CES/2003/4) is produced for the first time this year, presenting for each Programme Element the following sections of the Integrated Presentation: goal; issues and problems; strategic medium-term objectives; expected outcomes in the next two years; attention of the Conference is drawn to; decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference. The excerpt will be available in the three ECE official languages: English, French and Russian.

11. The conclusions reached by the Bureau in its review of the work that was carried out in the Conference's work programme since the 2002 plenary session and in its review of work planned to be carried out in the next two years are brought together and presented in a single document (CES/2003/6).

Item 4: Seminar on Globalization: lead organizer Statistics Canada

12. The seminar will be chaired by Philip Smith, Statistics Canada. Other members of the organizing committee are Carol Carson (IMF), Jean-Pierre Grandjean (INSEE, France) and Tadeusz Toczynski (CSO, Poland).

Session I: Gauging the globalization phenomenon itself

13. Two presentations are planned for this session. First, Ulrich Heilemann of the Comité consultatif Européen de l'information statistique dans les domaines économiques et social (CEIES) will summarize the outcome from the CEIES conference on "Statistics and Economic Globalization", to be held in Copenhagen on June 2-3. In addition, Andrew Wyckoff of the OECD will make a presentation on progress to date and future directions with respect to measures of the globalization phenomenon that are being developed by the OECD.

Session II: Impact of globalization on traditional statistical systems

14. Three papers will be presented in this session by Steve Landefeld (Bureau of Economic Analysis, United States), Robin Lynch (Office of National Statistics, United Kingdom) and Jean-Pierre Grandjean (INSEE, France). The papers will identify and discuss a range of globalization-related statistical issues that the three national statistical offices have been encountering.

Session III: Globalization questions to which users of statistics want answers

15. David Dodge, Governor of the Bank of Canada, will give a keynote speech about economic policy-making in an increasingly globalized world economy and the associated need for accurate, timely and well integrated statistical information.

Session IV: International statistical cooperation

16. For this session two papers will be prepared. Carol Carson (IMF) will present a paper on the Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey, reviewing lessons that have been learned from the experience with that survey. A second paper will be presented by Richard Barnabé (Statistics Canada) to consider improved mechanisms for coordinated data collection from multinationals, along with the implications for business register standards and harmonized survey concepts and questionnaires.

Item 5: Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the next plenary session

17. A list of possible topics for seminars to take place during the 2004 plenary session will be distributed by the ECE secretariat in advance of the plenary session to consult the CES member countries. The Bureau will submit a proposal for discussion and approval by the Conference.

Item 6: Seminar on Statistical Confidentiality and Microdata: lead organiser Statistics Sweden

18. The seminar will be chaired by Svante Öberg, Statistics Sweden. Other members of the organising committee are Katherine Wallman (OMB, United States), Vladimir Sokolin (Goskomstat, Russian Federation), Len Cook (ONS, United Kingdom) and Heinrich Brünger (UNECE).

Session I: Overview and Use of Microdata

19. Statistics Sweden will present an issue paper. Julia Lane (The Urban Institute and the US Census Bureau) will give a keynote speech on the Use of Microdata. United Kingdom will be the discussant in this session.

Session II: Data Confidentiality

20. The session will address problems regarding implementation of confidentiality. The Russian Federation will present a paper. Poland will act as the discussant in this session. The results of an ECE survey on confidentiality issues will be presented as a supporting paper.

Session III: Legal aspects on microdata

21. A paper based on “Access to microdata in the Nordic countries” will be presented. Eurostat will present a paper on recent EU legislation. USA will act as the discussant for the session.

Session IV: Access to microdata – issues, organisation and approaches

22. This session is about different issues and solutions – on-site and off-site – for improved accessibility. Australia will present a paper for this session. Portugal will be the discussant.

Item 7: Adoption of the report, and closing of the plenary session

23. The Conference is expected to adopt the report of the 2003 plenary session before it adjourns. The report will be short and will be limited as far as possible to decisions taken by the Conference during the course of the plenary session. The final report of the plenary session will be produced a month or so after the plenary session and will be made available on the ECE Web site.

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

Annex I: List of additional documents for the 2003 plenary session

The following documents represent reports on the various activities carried out by the ECE secretariat in fulfilment of the work programme of the Conference for the period since June 2002. They are distributed for information under item 3 of the provisional agenda and are not intended to be discussed at the plenary session.

Agenda item 3

Document

Programme activity 1: Organisation and operation of statistical services

Report of the October 2002 meeting of the CES Bureau

Room Document *

Report of the February 2003 meeting of the CES Bureau

Room Document *

Programme activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues

Report of the October 2002 Work Session on Statistical Output for Dissemination to the Information Media

CES/2003/23

Report of the February 2003 ECE-Eurostat-OECD Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems

CES/AC.71/2003/3

Report of the April 2003 ECE-Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality

CES/2003/26

Report of the May 2003 ECE-Eurostat Work Session on Methodological Issues Involving the Integration of Statistics and Geography

CES/2003/28

Programme activity 3: Economic statistics

Report of the October 2002 Special Session on National Accounts for Transition Economies

CES/2003/22

Report of the November 2002 ECE-Eurostat-FAO-OECD Seminar on Agricultural Statistics - Perspective for Agricultural and Rural Indicators and Sustainability

CES/SEM.49/2

Report of the March/April 2003 Joint Consultation on the European Comparison Programme

CES/2003/25

Programme activity 4: Social and demographic statistics

Report of the September 2002 Work session on gender statistics

CES/2003/21

Report of the December 2002 ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Registers and Administrative Records for Social and Demographic Statistics

CES/2003/24

Report of the April 2003 ECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics

CES/2003/27

Report of the May 2003 CE-Eurostat Work Session on Population and Housing Censuses

CES/2003/29

* Also available on the ECE Web site