

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

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| For decision |
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Third meeting of the 2005/2006 Bureau
Geneva, 20-21 February 2006

Item 11(b) of the Provisional
Agenda

**PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE
WORKING GROUP ON STATISTICS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Note prepared by Robert Smith, Chairman of the Working Group on Statistics for
Sustainable Development**

BACKGROUND

1. At the second meeting of the 2005/2006 CES Bureau, 24-25 October 2005, Washington D.C., the creation of a joint OECD/UNECE Working group on Statistics for Sustainable Development (WGSSD) was approved (ECE/CES/BUR/2005/12/Rev). To facilitate the operations of the WGSSD, an informal meeting of experts that took place in December 2005 in New York recommended that a Steering Committee be created. The members of the Steering Committee will be identified from among those countries and institutions participating in the full working group.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

2. The main objectives of the Steering Committee are:
- to assist the Chair in operational planning for the WGSSD (e.g. identifying meeting dates and locations; preparing meeting agendas);
 - to propose a programme of work for the WGSSD for approval by the full group;
 - to periodically review the programme of work and recommend changes as necessary for approval by the full group;
 - to oversee and, as necessary, contribute to the programme of work to ensure that the group is progressing effectively toward its objectives;
 - to ensure, to the best of its ability, that the WGSSD is able to garner sufficient support from countries and institutions to complete its mandate.

COMPOSITION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

3. The Steering Committee will include representatives from Canada, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UNECE, Eurostat, OECD, UN Statistics Division, UN Division for Sustainable Development and (possibly) World Bank.

MEETINGS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

4. The Steering Committee is expected to meet face-to-face two or three times per year during the WGSSD's mandate. Meetings will normally be held in Paris and occasionally in New York, Geneva or Ottawa. The first meeting will take place in Paris on 13 March 2006. Work between meetings will be carried out electronically.

OUTPUTS

5. The main outputs of the Steering Committee will be:
- a proposed programme of work and timetable for the WGSSD;
 - coordination of the work of the WGSSD with the aim of ensuring that the group meets its objectives within the timeframe of its mandate.

TIME FRAME

6. The Steering Committee will be operational during the full two-year mandate of the WGSSD.

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