

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

For information

Third meeting of the 2006/2007 Bureau
Geneva, 12-13 February 2007

Item 12 of the Provisional
Agenda

**FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE BUREAU AND THE
CONFERENCE**

Note prepared by the UNECE secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The note on follow-up to decisions taken by the Bureau and the Conference has been prepared systematically since the October 2002. It is updated for each Bureau meeting and for the CES plenary session.
2. The present note follows up on the main decisions taken by the Bureau and Conference on which work is still not completed. Actions undertaken before 2006 are summarised in a short form under History; decisions and follow-up from 2006 are given in more detail. Under each decision, the action to be taken is indicated.
3. The decisions are grouped in two sections: I. Decisions related to the work of the Conference and its Bureau; and II. Decisions related to the Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA/IP) and specific Statistical Activities (SAs).

**II. DECISIONS RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS
BUREAU**

Progress of work and strategies of international organizations

4. History: at the June 2002 plenary session, it was agreed that, periodically, discussion should be devoted to the progress of work of international organizations and their strategies. The IMF presented its statistical activities to the Bureau in October 2003, the World Bank in October 2004, Eurostat in October 2005 and UNSD in October 2006.

Action: Bureau to select at its February 2007 meeting the organization to present its statistical activities in October 2007.

CES Seminars

Ways to increase the productivity of the statistical office and to conduct statistical programmes more efficiently and effectively

5. The CES selected this topic for the seminar on foundational issues of statistical systems at the CES 2007 plenary session. Latvia is the Organiser of the seminar.

Action: the Bureau will discuss the updated outline of the seminar at its February 2007 meeting.

Measurement of capital – beyond the traditional measures

6. The CES selected this topic for the seminar on emerging issues at the 2007 CES plenary session. The Netherlands volunteered to organise the seminar.

Action: the Bureau will discuss the updated outline of the seminar at its February 2007 meeting.

III. DECISIONS RELATED TO THE DATABASE OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES (INTEGRATED PRESENTATION) AND SPECIFIC STATISTICAL AREAS

Purpose, structure and compilation of the Database of International Statistical Activities (formerly called Integrated Presentation)

7. History: the Bureau changed the procedure for reviewing the “Issues and Problems” in February 2005 and asked the UNECE secretariat to prepare a document on issues and problems, with contributions from other international organizations.

February 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau discussed the paper on issues and problems prepared by the UNECE secretariat. Recommendations were made for organizations to be contacted to complete the paper in the areas where no expertise is available in UNECE.

June 2006 plenary session: the Conference considered it necessary to review periodically the high priority statistical areas where considerable work is ongoing. The Conference requested Rapporteur Reports to be more action-oriented and include actionable recommendations for further steps to be taken by the Conference.

October 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau decided to postpone the review of the document on “Issues and Problems” and the decision about its future compilation for the meeting in February 2007. Concerning Rapporteur Reports, it was proposed that, in future, the focus of the Reports should be on strategic issues in the next five years or so rather than the current issues and problems. In addition, the UNSD volunteered to submit the provisional agenda of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) to the Bureau at its October meeting to avoid eventual duplication with the topics for in-depth discussion at the Commission.

Action: i) Issues and problems: the Bureau will consider the paper on issues and problems and its future compilation at its February 2007 meeting;

ii) Rapporteur Reports: (a) to be more action-oriented and propose concrete steps; (b) to focus on strategic issues in the next five years rather than on current problems;

iii) UNSD to inform about the provisional agenda of the UNSC at the October meetings of the Bureau.

Statistical Domain 1. Social statistics

8. History: the Bureau discussed social statistics at its October 2003, June 2004 and October 2004 meetings. Concern was expressed about harmonization of social statistics and international cooperation in this area. In February 2005, the Bureau supported the proposal for a joint UNECE/Eurostat meeting on social statistics. The first meeting took place on 29-30 September 2005. In October 2005, it was decided to establish a Task Force to examine emerging issues in social statistics.

October 2006 Bureau meeting: The Bureau reviewed the progress of work in social statistics.

Action: i) a session for emerging issues in social statistics will be organised at the ISI 2007 in Lisbon to get an idea of the whole range of issues that affect international comparability;

ii) to consider the possibility of not having the UNECE/Eurostat meeting on social statistics back-to-back with the Eurostat meeting of Directors of Social Statistics.

SA 1.1 Population and Migration

Migration statistics

9. History: in October 2005, the Bureau endorsed the Work Plan to improve migration statistics developed by the US Census Bureau and Statistics Canada, and approved the TOR for the Task Force on Measuring Emigration.

February 2006 Bureau: the Bureau welcomed the progress of work in the implementation of the work plan on migration statistics and the Task Force.

Action: the TF will submit regular reports on progress of work to the Bureau.

SA 1.2 Labour statistics

10. June 2005 plenary session: the countries' written comments to the Rapporteur Report on this issue indicated general support for priority to be given to measurement of working hours. Australia and Canada expressed interest in contributing to the work on developing supplementary questions that could be added to the Labour Force Survey to measure the actual hours worked.

February 2006 meeting: the Bureau approved the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Measurement of Quality of Work. ILO will act as the secretariat to the Task Force.

Action: the Task Force will submit progress reports to the Bureau.

SA 1.4. Health statistics

11. February 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau discussed a possible timing problem between the CES Task Force on Measurement of Health Status (the so-called Budapest initiative) and the Eurostat Regulation on health status measurement.

June 2006 plenary session: the Conference discussed health statistics based on a Rapporteur report prepared by the United States and OECD.

October 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau reviewed coordination of health statistics.

Action: i) the Bureau will be informed about progress in this area and the outcome of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics (ISWG-HS) meeting in November 2006 at its February 2007 meeting;

ii) the issue of coordination of health statistics will be discussed at the UN Statistical Commission meeting in March 2007.

SA 1.8 Justice and crime statistics

12. June 2006 plenary session: the Conference made an in-depth review of crime statistics. The Conference asked the Task Force on Victimisation Surveys to continue its work towards the harmonisation of victimisation surveys and selected statistics based on administrative records.

Action: the Task Force on Victimisation Surveys will take into account the recommendations of the Conference and will report to the Bureau at a future meeting.

SA 1.9 Culture statistics

13. History: in February 2003, the Bureau approved the proposal for the organization of a joint UNECE/UIS-UNESCO/Eurostat meeting in 2004-2005. The meeting was not included in the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2004-2006 due to lack of resources. In February 2005, the Bureau asked Eurostat to consider taking over the organization of this meeting. February and October 2006 Bureau meeting: Eurostat informed that they are still considering the organization of the meeting on culture statistics.

Action: Eurostat will inform the Bureau about the plans for organising a meeting on culture statistics at its February 2007 meeting.

SA 2.1. Macroeconomic statistics

14. February 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau approved the proposal for the external assessment of the UNECE macroeconomic database and gender database in 2006. October 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau was informed about the results of the assessment. The Bureau and later the UNECE Executive Committee endorsed the recommendations given in the evaluation report.

Action: UNECE will implement the recommendations of the external assessment of the databases.

SA 2.7. Prices

15. October 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau considered the TOR for a Steering Group on Price Statistics. The Bureau asked to revise the TOR for the February 2007 meeting.

Action: UNECE secretariat will present a new proposal in February 2007.

SA 3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues

16. History: in countries' written comments to the Rapporteur Report on this issue at the CES June 2005 plenary session, it was proposed that a workshop be organized to develop an agenda for future action. The October 2005 Bureau meeting noted that one possibility is to undertake the work within the Social Statistics Project.

Action: the next joint UNECE/Eurostat meeting on Social Statistics will consider how to deal with this issue.

SA 3.3.4 Globalization

17. History: as a follow-up to the CES Seminar on Globalization in June 2003, an experiment on measuring the activities of the multinational enterprises (MNE) was carried out. Progress reports were presented at the June 2004 plenary session and at the October 2004

Bureau meeting. In June 2005, the CES decided to terminate the MNE project in its current configuration. The project was taken over by Eurostat.

June 2006 plenary session: globalization was considered based on a Rapporteur Report prepared by Canada and the United Kingdom. Coordination of work on globalization statistics was considered necessary.

October 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau considered a proposal for follow-up work in globalisation statistics, prepared by the UNECE secretariat, R. Lynch and P. Smith.

Action: the Bureau will consider the revised proposal for work on globalization statistics at its February 2007 meeting.

SA 3.3.6 Sustainable development

18. History: In June 2005, the Conference asked a group of countries to develop terms of reference for further work on measuring sustainable development. In October 2005, the Bureau approved the creation of a Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development.

February 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Steering Committee on Sustainable Development and the work plan for the UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Sustainable Development. The Working Group will report both to the CES and the OECD Annual Meeting of SD Experts.

October 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau reviewed the progress on sustainable development and made recommendations on how to proceed further.

Action: (i) the Steering Committee will report on the progress of work at the Bureau 2007 February meeting;

(ii) a progress report will be presented to the CES plenary session in June 2007.

SA 4.3.2 Business and agricultural censuses and registers

19. October 2006 Bureau meeting: The Bureau considered the TOR for a Steering Group on Business Registers. The Bureau asked to revise the TOR for the February 2007 meeting.

Action: UNECE secretariat will present the revised TOR in February 2007.

SA 4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection

20. History: as a follow-up to the CES Seminar on Statistical Confidentiality and Microdata in June 2003, a Task Force was created to develop a set of guidelines for confidentiality protection (the Terms of Reference approved in October 2003).

February 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau approved the document as Interim Guidelines.

June 2006 plenary session: the Conference adopted the Guidelines subject to inclusion of modifications to address the latest comments. It was recommended to set up a Task Force to examine the confidentiality concerns related to integrated data sets and consider the development of common principles.

October 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau approved the *Guidelines for managing confidentiality and microdata*. The first draft of the TOR for the Task Force on Confidentiality in Integrated Data Sets was considered.

Action: i) UNECE will publish the Guidelines and will link the Guidelines to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

- ii) UNSD will consider including the Guidelines in their database of good practices in official statistics;*
- iii) the Bureau will consider the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on confidentiality in integrated data sets at its February 2007 meeting.*

SA 5.3. Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices

21. June 2006 plenary session: the Conference considered quality frameworks based on a Rapporteur Report prepared by Sweden. The Conference considered it necessary to establish a focal point to coordinate the numerous international activities going on in this area.

Action: the Bureau will consider the coordination of international work on statistical quality frameworks at its future meeting.

SA 5.4 Management and development of human resources

22. June 2006 plenary session: the CES seminar on human resources and training was held. The Conference considered it necessary to continue to exchange experience in this area.

October 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau had its first discussion on follow-up to the Seminar on human resources and training.

- Action: i) the proceedings of the CES seminar on human resources and training will be published jointly by UNECE and the Czech Statistical Office;*
- ii) UNSD offered to host a website on countries' practices on human resources issues and training;*
 - iii) the Bureau will discuss a proposal for the follow-up work at its February 2007 meeting.*

SA 5.5 Management and development of technological resources

23. History: at the June 2005 plenary session, the Conference recommended to establish a working group to further explore the issues concerning EDR. The Bureau approved the TOR for the work of the Task Force in October 2005.

February 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau approved the work plan for the Task Force.

October 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau considered the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) initiative. It was decided to continue the discussion in February 2007 on the basis of a paper prepared by SDMX sponsors.

- Action: i) the Task Force on EDR will prepare a report for the June 2007 Plenary Session of the Conference;*
- ii) the Bureau will make an in-depth review of the work on SDMX based on a paper prepared by SDMX sponsors at its February 2007 meeting.*

SA 5.7 Technical cooperation and capacity building

24. History: In February 2005, the Bureau requested UNECE, Eurostat and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS to prepare a proposal on how to improve the coordination of technical assistance in the UNECE region. In October 2005, the Bureau discussed the proposal prepared by UNECE and Eurostat and a separate note prepared by CIS-STAT, and asked for a revised version of the paper to be prepared.

February 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau approved the coordination of technical cooperation in the UNECE region based on the paper by UNECE secretariat.

June 2006 plenary session: the Conference approved the strategy for coordinating technical cooperation.

Action: i) the UNECE secretariat will present the results of the survey on donor activities on technical cooperation in statistics in Central Asia in February 2007;
ii) CIS Statistical Committee is collecting information from the CIS countries on their needs for technical assistance. The information will be forwarded to UNECE.

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