

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

For information

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Agenda

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

Note by the secretariat

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. DECISIONS RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS BUREAU	2
Progress of work and strategies of international organizations.....	2
Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA)	2
CES Seminars	3
Strategic issues linked to the measurement of international transactions.....	3
Measuring population movement and integration in a globalised world	3
II. DECISIONS RELATED TO SPECIFIC STATISTICAL AREAS.....	3
Statistical Domain 1. Social statistics	3
SA 1.1 Population and migration	3
SA 1.2 Labour statistics	3
SA 1.4 Health statistics	4
SA 1.7 Human settlements and housing	4
SA 1.8 Justice and crime statistics	4
SA 1.9 Culture statistics.....	5
SA 2.2 Economic Accounts	5
SA 2.3 Business statistics	5
SA 3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues	5
SA 3.3.2 Gender and special population groups.	5
SA 3.3.4 Globalization.....	6
SA 3.3.5 Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals	6
SA 3.3.6 Sustainable development	6
SA 4.1 Metadata	6
SA 4.3.2 Business and agricultural censuses and registers	6
SA 4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection.....	7
SA 5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices	7
SA 5.4 Management and development of human resources	7
SA 5.5 Management and development of technological resources.....	8

INTRODUCTION

1. The note on follow-up to decisions taken by the Bureau and the Conference is updated for each Bureau meeting and for the CES plenary session. It follows up on the main decisions taken by the Bureau and Conference on what work is still not completed.
2. The decisions are grouped in two sections: I. Decisions related to the work of the Conference

and its Bureau; and II. Decisions related to specific Statistical Activities (SAs). Actions undertaken before 2007 are summarised in a short form under History; decisions and follow-up from 2007 are given in more detail. Under each decision, the action to be taken is indicated.

I. DECISIONS RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS BUREAU

Progress of work and strategies of international organizations

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 following international organizations have presented their statistical activities to the Bureau: IMF (2003), the World Bank (2004), Eurostat (2005), UNSD (2006) and OECD (2007)
Action:	<i>The Bureau will select at its February 2008 meeting the international organization to present its statistical work in October 2008.</i>

Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA)

History:	In June 2006, the Conference emphasized the need to review periodically the high priority statistical areas where considerable work is ongoing. In October 2006, the Bureau decided to focus the in-depth discussion on strategic issues in the next five years or so. Furthermore, 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.
February 2007:	The Bureau decided to test a new approach for the in-depth reviews at its next two meetings focusing on a few selected areas and on strategic issues.
June 2007:	The Bureau selected the topics to be reviewed in-depth in October 2007 and February 2008.
October 2007:	The Bureau reviewed in-depth statistics on income, living conditions and poverty, and gender statistics.
Action:	<i>i) The Bureau will review in-depth in February 2008 two topics: environment statistics and culture statistics;</i> <i>ii) the secretariat will circulate to the Conference in 2008 a paper informing about the in-depth reviews and their outcomes (including excerpts of respective topics from DISA and the Bureau decisions);</i> <i>iii) the Bureau will evaluate the new approach to in-depth reviews in October 2008;</i> <i>iv) the Bureau will select topics to be reviewed in-depth in October 2008 and February 2009; the Bureau will also select the countries/organizations to prepare the in-depth review papers.</i>

CES Seminars**Strategic issues linked to the measurement of international transactions**

June 2007 CES:	The CES selected this topic for the seminar on emerging issues to be held during the CES 2008 plenary session. IMF and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis are the organisers of the seminar.
Action:	<i>The Bureau will review an updated outline of the seminar in February 2008.</i>

Measuring population movement and integration in a globalised world

June 2007:	The CES selected this topic for the seminar on foundational issues of statistical systems to be held during the 2008 CES plenary session. Germany and Eurostat are the organisers of the seminar.
Action:	<i>The Bureau will review an updated outline of the seminar in February 2008.</i>

II. DECISIONS RELATED TO SPECIFIC STATISTICAL AREAS**Statistical Domain 1. Social statistics**

History:	In February 2005, the Bureau supported the proposal to organise a joint UNECE/Eurostat meeting on social statistics. The first meeting took place in September 2005. In October 2005, a Task Force was established to examine emerging issues in social statistics. In October 2006, the Bureau decided to focus the work on two areas: measurement of new forms of families and households, and measurement of volunteer work, and approved the TOR for the Task Forces on both topics.
Action:	<i>The Bureau will be informed about progress of work in February 2008.</i>

SA 1.1 Population and migration

History:	In October 2005, the Bureau approved the TOR for the Task Force on measuring emigration. In February 2006, the Bureau welcomed the progress of work of the Task Force.
February 2007:	The Bureau made an in-depth review of population statistics. The Bureau asked for documenting best practices in the production of demographic projections and post-census revision of population estimates
Action:	<i>TOR for a Task Force on population projections will be presented to the Bureau for approval in February 2008.</i>

SA 1.2 Labour statistics

History:	In February 2006, the Bureau approved the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on measurement of quality of work with ILO acting as the secretariat. In October 2006, the Bureau approved the TOR for the TF on volunteering work.
June 2007:	The Bureau reviewed the new TOR for the Task Force on quality of work and approved the TOR through an electronic consultation in July 2007.

October 2007:	The Bureau asked for clarification of a possible overlap with a joint activity of Johns Hopkins University and ILO in the area of measuring volunteering work. – <i>Clarification: the Task Force and Johns Hopkins University are fully cooperating in this area. The Johns Hopkins is a member of the Task Force and involved in the work, e.g. the Task Force on volunteering work co-organised with Johns Hopkins and ILO a workshop on measuring volunteering in Geneva on 2-4 July 2007.</i>
Action:	<i>i) the Task Force on quality of employment was asked to provide an opportunity to countries who are not members of the TF to comment on the proposed indicators of quality of employment in early 2008, before the paper for the International Conference of Labour Statisticians is finalized. The Bureau will be informed about the development at a future meeting; ii) the progress of work will be reviewed in February 2008.</i>

SA 1.4 Health statistics

History:	The Bureau discussed coordination of health statistics at its meetings in 2006 and February 2007. Disappointment was expressed with the slow progress of the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics.
June 2007:	The Conference noted that there are ongoing concerns about the work of the ISWGHS and emphasized the need to build more effective working arrangements for the ISWGHS. WHO has announced that they withdraw from the Budapest initiative.
Action:	<i>The Bureau will be informed about progress in coordination of health statistics at a future meeting.</i>

SA 1.7 Human settlements and housing

October 2007:	The Bureau noted that housing statistics is a potential topic for an in-depth review because of very few international activities in this area. The UNECE activities in this area have been discontinued following the ECE Reform Work Plan in 2005.
Action:	<i>The Bureau to consider housing statistics when selecting topics for the next in-depth reviews to be carried out in October 2008 and February 2009.</i>

SA 1.8 Justice and crime statistics

History:	In June 2006, the Conference made an in-depth review of crime statistics. The Conference asked the Task Force on Victimization Surveys to continue its work towards the harmonisation of victimisation surveys and the harmonization of selected victimization statistics based on administrative records.
October 2007	The Bureau reviewed the progress of work.
Action:	<i>The manual on victim surveys will be presented to the Bureau for a review in February 2009.</i>

SA 1.9 Culture statistics

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 has not been included in the UNECE Statistical Programme due to lack of resources. In February 2005, the Bureau asked Eurostat to consider taking over the organization of this meeting.
Action:	<i>Culture statistics will be reviewed in-depth at the February 2008 Bureau meeting.</i>

SA 2.2 Economic Accounts

June 2007 CES:	The CES seminar <i>Measurement of capital – beyond the traditional measures</i> was held. The Conference recommended to publish the proceedings of the seminar.
Action:	<i>UNECE and Statistics Netherlands will publish the proceedings of the seminar.</i>

SA 2.3 Business statistics

February 2007:	The Bureau made an in-depth review of business statistics. It was decided to form a small task force to address pending issues in the field of business statistics. Canada and Eurostat volunteered to draft a proposal for the terms of reference.
Action:	<i>i) the TOR of the TF on business statistics will be reviewed in February 2008; ii) business statistics will be included on the agenda of the CES plenary session in 2008.</i>

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

History:	The CES June 2005 plenary session proposed that a workshop be organized to develop an agenda for future action.
October 2007:	The Bureau reviewed in-depth the topic of statistics on income, living conditions and poverty.
Action:	<i>The Bureau recommended to develop a road map of what issues need to be considered and what practical actions can be undertaken in the area of statistics on income, living conditions and poverty. A proposal to be developed by Statistics Canada will be reviewed at the February 2008 Bureau meeting.</i>

SA 3.3.2 Gender and special population groups.

October 2007:	The Bureau made an in-depth review of gender statistics. The Bureau also reviewed the progress of work of the CES SG on gender statistics and TF on gender sensitization training and TF on violence against women. The Bureau asked the SG and TFs to prepare new TORs to take into account comments made in the discussion.
Action:	<i>i) the Bureau will consider the updated TOR for the SG on gender statistics, TF on gender sensitization training and TF on violence against women in February 2008; ii) the Bureau will review in-depth gender statistics again in 2-3 years time; ii) the outcome of and follow-up to the Global Forum on Gender Statistics (Rome, 10-12 December 2007) will be presented at the CES 2008 plenary session.</i>

SA 3.3.4 Globalization

History:	Globalization was discussed at the June 2006 plenary session and coordination of work on globalization statistics was considered necessary. In October 2006, the Bureau considered a proposal for work on globalisation statistics.
February 2007:	The Bureau decided to create an expert group to deal with the distortions caused by globalisation in the compilation of national accounts. The TOR for the group were approved by electronic consultation in April 2007.
Action:	<i>A report on the planned work following the first meeting of the Leadership Group on 8-9 October 2007 will be presented to the CES Bureau in February 2008.</i>

SA 3.3.5 Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals

History:	The 2005 Work Plan of the UNECE Reform requested the creation of an MDG database. This would require extra-budgetary funds and no solution has been found to guarantee a sustained funding of this project so far.
Action:	<i>UNECE will submit a proposal on how to continue the UNECE work in this area to the Bureau in February 2008.</i>

SA 3.3.6 Sustainable development

History:	In October 2005, the Bureau approved the TOR for the Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development (WGSSD). In February 2006, the Bureau approved the TOR for the Steering Committee on Sustainable Development and the work plan for the WGSSD.
February 2007:	The Bureau reviewed the progress and commended the group for the work done.
Action:	<i>i) the Bureau will review the draft report on measuring sustainable development in February 2008; ii) the Working Group will present the Report to the 2008 CES plenary session.</i>

SA 4.1 Metadata

February 2007:	The Bureau reviewed the progress with the Common Metadata Framework. It was decided to establish a Steering Group on Statistical Metadata.
October 2007:	TOR for the SG on statistical metadata were approved. It was recommended to include metadata in the agenda of the CES 2008 plenary session to raise awareness of the top management of statistical offices about the importance of metadata.
Action:	<i>The Bureau will review at its February 2008 meeting an outline of the presentation to be given at the CES 2008 plenary session.</i>

SA 4.3.2 Business and agricultural censuses and registers

History:	In October 2006, the Bureau considered the TOR for a Steering Group on Business Registers. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to revise the TOR for the February 2007 meeting.
February 2007:	The Bureau reviewed the updated TOR but considered that the recommendations of its previous meeting were not properly reflected in the document.
Action:	<i>The Bureau will consider the new revised proposal in February 2008.</i>

SA 4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection

History:	As a follow-up to the CES Seminar on <i>Statistical confidentiality and microdata</i> in June 2003, a Task Force was created to develop a set of guidelines for confidentiality protection. The CES Bureau approved the <i>Guidelines for managing confidentiality and microdata</i> in October 2006. Furthermore, it was recommended to set up a Task Force to examine the confidentiality and privacy concerns related to integrated data sets and consider the development of common principles.
February 2007:	The Bureau approved the TOR for the Task Force on confidentiality and privacy issues in integrated data sets.
Action:	<i>i) the Bureau will review the first draft set of principles and practices for the creation and use of integrated datasets in February 2008.</i> <i>ii) the TF will submit a draft set of Principles to the CES 2008 plenary session.</i>

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

June 2006:	In June 2006, 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.
June 2007:	The CES seminar <i>Ways to increase the productivity of the statistical office and to conduct statistical programmes more efficiently and effectively</i> was held. The Conference concluded that the discussion on this topic should continue in future with the aim of collecting and sharing best practices in the field of measuring effectiveness, efficiency and productivity.
October 2007:	Latvia volunteered to collect from different countries the indicators and practices of reporting the output of statistical offices.
Action:	<i>i) the Bureau decided to wait for the outcome of the CCSA initiative on quality frameworks to see if any follow-up action is still necessary. The Bureau will discuss this issue at a future meeting;</i> <i>ii) the Bureau will consider the paper by Latvia in February 2008.</i>

SA 5.4 Management and development of human resources

History:	In June 2006, the CES seminar on <i>Human resources and training</i> was held. The Conference considered it necessary to continue to exchange experience in this area.
February 2007:	The Bureau approved the TOR for an Organising Committee (OC) for a forum on human resources management to take place in 2008.
Action:	<i>The Bureau will discuss an issue paper about the organization of the forum at its February 2008 meeting.</i>

SA 5.5 Management and development of technological resources

History:	In June 2005, the Conference recommended to establish a working group to further explore the issues concerning Electronic Data Reporting (EDR). The Bureau approved the TOR for the work of the Task Force on EDR in October 2005 and a work plan in February 2006.
Action:	<i>i) the Bureau will discuss the draft report on EDR at its February 2008 meeting;</i> <i>ii) a report by the Task Force on EDR will be presented at the 2008 plenary session of the Conference.</i>

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