

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Second Meeting of the 2011/2012 Bureau  
Geneva (Switzerland), 2-3 November 2011

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will start at 9:30 on Wednesday, 2 November and is planned to finish at 17:00 on Thursday, 3 November 2011. The meeting will take place at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

The traditional subscription dinner will be organised on Wednesday, 2 November 2011.

The meeting will be held in English only. The documents for the meeting will be distributed by e-mail as soon as they become available.

**I. OPENING BY ENRICO GIOVANNINI**

**II. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS**

1. The CES Bureau regularly reviews selected statistical areas in depth. The aim of the review is to improve coordination of statistical activities in the UNECE region, identify gaps or duplication of work, and address emerging issues.

**(a) Education statistics** – *for discussion and recommendations*  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/2 by Australia)

2. The topic of education statistics was selected in November 2010 to be reviewed in depth by the Bureau in November 2011. The Conference discussed challenges in education statistics at its June 2011 plenary session in order to obtain input from all the CES members. An updated version of the in-depth review paper is prepared by Australia, incorporating the comments from the CES discussion in June and the written contributions sent by countries after the CES plenary session.

**(b) Global manufacturing** – *for discussion and recommendations*  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/3 by the Netherlands)

3. The topic of global manufacturing was selected in November 2010 to be reviewed in depth by the Bureau in November 2011. The topic was identified for a follow-up work by the expert group which developed the *Guide on the Impact of Globalization on National Accounts* (adopted in June 2011 by the CES). UNECE and the Netherlands are jointly preparing the main paper to provide basis for the discussion. **Members of the CES Bureau are invited to submit additional notes on the topic in advance of the Bureau meeting to contribute to the discussion.**

**(c) Household survey methods – for discussion and recommendations**  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/4 by Canada)

4. The topic of household survey methods was selected in November 2010 to be reviewed in depth by the Bureau in November 2011. Canada is preparing the main paper to provide basis for the discussion. **Members of the CES Bureau are invited to submit additional notes on the topic in advance of the Bureau meeting to contribute to the discussion.**

**(d) Follow-up to the in-depth review on measuring information society and statistics on science, technology and innovation – for decision**  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/5 paper by Australia and UNECE)

5. The Bureau made an in-depth review of measuring information society and statistics on science, technology and innovation in November 2010. The Conference was informed about the outcome of the review at its June 2011 plenary session. The Conference noted that there may be scope for better coordination of the many initiatives undertaken in the area and that the development of a conceptual framework may be considered. The CES members were invited to submit comments and suggestions on possible follow-up activities after the CES plenary session.

6. As requested by the Bureau, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the International Telecommunications Union and the secretariat prepared an inventory of groups working in the area of statistics on information society, science, technology and innovation which will be presented.

7. The Bureau is invited to discuss possible ways forward in this area.

**III. MEETING WITH THE TOP MANAGEMENT OF THE UNECE (OR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE) – for information**

8. Traditionally, the Bureau meets with the Executive Secretary and/or the representatives of the Bureau of the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) when the meeting is held in Geneva.

**IV. UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME FOR 2012 – for decision**  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/6 by UNECE)

9. The draft programme of work for the UNECE Statistical Division in 2012 will be presented to the Bureau for approval.

10. The format of the statistical programme has been substantially revised. The new format follows the template for reporting to the UNECE Executive Committee. It includes a narrative programme and two annexes providing a list of meetings and outputs.

11. The secretariat proposes to follow the same procedure as in previous years, that is to focus the discussion on new or substantially changed activities of the work programme. The various Steering Groups and Task Forces related to the activities are also reviewed under this agenda item.

**(a) Measuring health status – for decision**

(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/7 by the Task Force on Measuring Health Status)

12. The Joint UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Steering Group and Task Force on Measuring Health Status were set up in October 2004 (the so-called Budapest Initiative). These two groups have been developing common measures of health status to ensure international comparability and to reach a consensus on the concept, measurement and reporting of health status. The terms of reference of the groups were extended in October 2009 to finalize a survey questionnaire to measure the health status.

13. The Bureau is invited to approve the report and discuss the need for further work.

**(b) Crime statistics – for decision**

(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/8 by the Task Force on Crime Classification)

14. The Joint UNECE/UN Office on Drugs and Crime Task Force on Crime Classification was set up in October 2009. The aim was to develop a set of principles on international crime classification systems for statistical use. The Task Force will present a progress report and proposals for further work.

15. The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve the proposal for further work on crime classifications.

**(c) Statistics related to climate change - for decision**

(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/9 by UNECE)

16. At the request of the Bureau, the UNECE secretariat carried out a survey to explore the degree to which national statistical organisations are involved in producing emission inventories and other climate change related statistics. Furthermore, the survey was extended to some countries outside the region at the request of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting as a follow-up to a decision of the UN Statistical Commission to advance work in this area. The aim of the survey was to identify common concerns and needs of official statistics to be addressed at the international level.

17. The paper presents the outcome of the survey and a proposal for further work on climate change statistics to address the issues raised by countries in the survey.

18. The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve the proposal.

**(d) Strategic developments in business architecture in statistics - for discussion and recommendations**

(Oral presentation)

19. The Bureau set up the High-Level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics (HLG-BAS) in June 2010. According to the terms of reference, the Group will annually report to and solicit comments from the Bureau.

20. The CES plenary session in June 2011 discussed and supported the strategic vision of the Group. The Group is organising a workshop on 31 October – 1 November 2011 to discuss the

work of the related expert groups and their alignment with the common strategy for future architecture of official statistical production.

21. The Bureau is invited to discuss the outcome of the workshop and the recommendations for further work.

**(e) Data collection - for decision**  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/10 by UNECE)

22. The CES 2011 seminar on data collection and sharing and SDMX implementation noted that there is currently no forum to discuss organizational and management aspects of data collection. It was proposed to create an expert group under the CES to cover this topic. A key issue for this group would be economies of scale from the use of common tools and methods.

23. At its meeting on 11 June, the Bureau discussed briefly the outcome of the seminar. The Bureau decided to wait for the outcome of the workshop organized by the High-Level Group on Strategic Issues in Business Architecture in Statistics on 31 October-1 November 2011 before taking any decision on follow-up actions to the CES seminar. Furthermore, the Bureau suggested to organize a one-off expert meeting on data collection in 2012. Following this, the Bureau will consider whether there is a need for an ongoing activity on this topic.

24. The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve the proposal for a meeting on data collection.

**(f) Other issues**

25. Under this agenda item the secretariat may bring to the attention of the Bureau any other issues related to the Statistical Programme.

**V. UNECE BIENNIAL PROGRAMME IN STATISTICS FOR 2012-13**  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/11 by UNECE)

26. In addition to the annual statistical programme, the secretariat has also to prepare a biennial programme as part of the UN biennial planning and budgeting process. The biennial programme follows a standard format approved by the UNECE EXCOM.

27. The Bureau is invited to approve the document.

**VI. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2014-2015**  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/12 by UNECE)

28. The Bureau is expected to discuss and approve the UNECE strategic framework for 2014-2015. This document relates to the UN programme planning and evaluation cycle.

**VII. UNECE REVIEW – for discussion and recommendations**  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/13 paper by UNECE)

29. The UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), at its 64<sup>th</sup> session in March 2011, initiated a review of the ECE reform undertaken in 2005. The review will take place in 2011-2012 aiming at concrete recommendations for the future work priorities for each

subprogramme in the UNECE. Representatives of the CES Bureau had a first meeting with the Bureau of the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) concerning the review process at the time of the June 2011 plenary session in Geneva.

30. As a first step, the secretariats of the ECE Sectoral Committees were asked to provide detailed information to the EXCOM on the work done, identifying concrete outputs during the last two years. Information was also asked on possibilities for streamlining, optimising and improving efficiency of work. In addition, the secretariat was asked to prepare, in consultation with the Sectoral Committees information on new, emerging issues and activities, including expected future results. Based on all this information, the EXCOM plans to review the statistics subprogramme at a meeting at the end of November 2011. The Chair of the CES is invited to participate at the meeting.

31. After reviewing all UNECE subprogrammes, the EXCOM will carry out a cross-sectoral review and formulate recommendations on the future UNECE work priorities to be submitted for approval at the 2013 spring session of the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

32. The Bureau will be informed about the ongoing review process. The Bureau is also invited to make recommendations on the emerging issues that the Conference should work on in the coming years.

**VIII. PRINCIPLES ON CONFIDENTIALITY ASPECTS OF STATISTICAL DATA INTEGRATION** – *for decision*  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/14 by UNECE)

33. In June 2011, the Conference was informed about country experiences with testing the *Principles and Guidelines on Confidentiality Aspects of Data Integration Undertaken for Statistical or Related Research Purposes* (adopted in 2009). The Conference asked the secretariat to retain the comments received from countries for use in a future review of the Guidelines and asked the Bureau to assess the organization and timing of such a review.

34. The Bureau is invited to consider the proposal for the next steps prepared by the secretariat based on comments received from countries.

**IX. FOLLOW-UP TO THE CES 2010 SEMINAR ON IMPACT OF CRISES ON STATISTICAL SYSTEMS** – *for discussion and recommendations*  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/15 by Canada)

35. Following the CES 2010 seminar on the impact of global crises on statistical systems, Statistics Canada is preparing a summary paper on lessons learned from the financial crisis. A number of countries and international organizations have provided input to the paper.

36. The CES Bureau is invited to provide recommendations for finalising the paper and for any potential follow-up activities.

**X. FOLLOW-UP TO THE CES 2011 SEMINAR ON MEASURING HUMAN CAPITAL** – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/16 by New Zealand)

37. The Conference discussed challenges in measurement of human capital at the June 2011 CES seminar. The Conference decided as a first step to prepare a report taking stock of what has been done so far in measuring human capital, including the related work of OECD, the World Bank and UNECE. The report should be prepared by a small group of experts comprising expertise in national accounts, sustainable development and education statistics. The findings of the report should be presented to the Conference within two years. New Zealand, the Chair of the seminar, is preparing a proposal how to follow up on the decision of the CES.

38. The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve the proposal.

**XI. PREPARATIONS FOR THE CES 2012 PLENARY SESSION**

**(a) Evaluation of the 59<sup>th</sup> CES plenary session** – *for information*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/17 by UNECE)

39. The results of the evaluation questionnaires of the 2011 CES plenary session will be presented for information.

**(b) Organization of the CES 2012 seminar “Implementing the UN fundamental principles of official statistics, including issues related to coordination of national statistical systems”** – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/18 by UNECE with input from Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Ukraine and United States)

40. The CES plenary session selected this topic for the first CES 2012 seminar. The Bureau is invited to discuss the organization of the seminar based on an updated outline prepared by the Seminar Organizers.

**(c) Organization of the CES 2012 seminar “Challenges for future population and housing censuses based on lessons learned from the last census round”** – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/19 by Canada, CIS-STAT and UNECE)

41. The CES plenary session selected this topic for the second CES 2012 seminar. The Bureau is invited to discuss the organization of the seminar based on an updated outline prepared by the Seminar Organizers.

**(d) Progress with the Report on Measuring Sustainable Development planned to be submitted to the CES 2012 plenary session** – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/20 by UNECE)

42. The Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Task Force on Measuring Sustainable Development is developing a report to provide practical guidance for harmonisation of measuring sustainable development. An extended summary of the Report was consulted with the Bureau and the CES in spring 2011 and was presented to the CES 2011 plenary session. The Conference appreciated the progress made by the Task Force.

43. The Task Force is currently working on the report to have a final draft ready by the end of the year. The draft is planned to be consulted with the Bureau in January 2012. The Final Report is due to be presented to the CES plenary session in June 2012.

44. Furthermore, the Economic Commission for Europe at its 2011 spring session considered selected emerging areas of the UNECE work, including statistical activities related to environment, sustainable development and climate change. The Commission's decision on statistics for sustainable development reads: "[The Commission] emphasizes the importance of good quality statistical data as a basis for formulation of adequate and evidence-based policies to address the growing concern about sustainable development and environment-related quality of life, and requests the Conference of European Statisticians to develop recommendations and agree, after taking into account existing statistics at regional, subregional and national levels, on a common framework for measuring sustainable development within the realm of official statistics."

45. The Bureau is invited to discuss the procedure for the finalisation of the report on measuring sustainable development, also in view of the Commission decision.

**(e) Preparation of the formal session, draft agenda and timetable for the 2012 plenary session – for decision**  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/21 by UNECE)

46. The Bureau is invited to discuss and comment on the organization of the CES plenary session in 2012.

**XII. PROPOSAL FOR A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON MODERNIZATION OF STATISTICAL PRODUCTION, TO BE ORGANIZED IN COOPERATION WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION – for discussion and recommendations**  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/22 by UNECE)

47. The Russian Federation proposes to organise jointly with UNECE a high-level seminar on modernising statistical production in 2012. The seminar is targeted at the Heads of National Statistical Offices with a special focus on the CIS countries.

48. The Bureau is invited to comment on the proposed concept note for the meeting.

**XIII. PRESENTATION OF THE STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

49. The Bureau regularly discusses the work and strategies of international organizations in statistics. In previous years, the IMF, World Bank, Eurostat, UNSD, OECD, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, ILO and the World Trade Organization have presented their statistical activities to the Bureau.

50. The World Meteorological Organization will be invited to present its statistical activities at the November 2011 meeting.

**XIV. DATES AND VENUE OF THE NEXT CES BUREAU MEETINGS**

51. The Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venue of its next meetings.

**XV. OTHER BUSINESS**

52. Any other topics can be taken up under this agenda item. Furthermore, the Bureau is expected to decide on the papers that will be made available on Internet before the meeting adjourns.

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