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Item [5] of the agenda

**Review of subprogramme performance
and programme planning****Draft programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme for
the biennium 2012-2013****Note by the Secretariat****Introduction**

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme (“the subprogramme”) for 2012–2013. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (“the Conference”) is invited to consider the programme and subsequently adopt it at its meeting of November 2011. It will then be submitted to the Conference and to the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Committee for formal approval. The Conference will have the opportunity to adjust its programme of work during the course of the biennium and such adjustments will be reflected in a separate document.
2. The draft programme of work applies a results-based approach. It comprises, for each cluster of activities an expected accomplishment and a list of outputs/activities proposed to be carried out in 2012–2013. The delivery of these outputs/activities is expected to contribute to achieving the expected results.
3. The grouping of activities into clusters is exactly the same as used by the Committee for the biennial evaluation of its subprogramme performance.
4. Furthermore, the outputs/activities listed in this document correspond with the ECE proposed programme budget for 2012–2013 and are complemented by additional items to reflect the more recent developments and needs of ECE member States. For easy reference, such new outputs/activities have been clearly indicated as “additional”.

5. The outputs/activities have been listed under the cluster of activities to which they belong according to the following main categories: (a) meetings and related parliamentary documentation; (b) publications and other information material; and (c) technical cooperation, including, seminars, workshops, training sessions, advisory services.
6. Finally, Annex I to the present document lists the ECE overall legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme.

I. Objective and strategy

7. The objective of the ECE subprogramme of statistics is to improve the quality of official statistics at the national and international levels, and to ensure the coordination of international statistical activities undertaken in the region. Official statistics are needed for evidence based economic, social and environmental policy making, and for assessing progress against international development goals.
8. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Statistical Division. Coordinating all international statistical activities undertaken in the region will remain a central component of the strategy under the subprogramme. The subprogramme will promote the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics within the international statistical community and provide advice to countries on institutional frameworks of official statistics.
9. Concerning methodological work, the subprogramme will focus on a selected number of subject areas, in particular those where ECE can provide an added value and complement the work undertaken by other international organizations. The work will concentrate on developing and updating methodological guidelines and leading practices, and on advising national statistical offices regarding existing United Nations standards and best practices and their implementation at the national level. Public access to all meeting documents, work programmes and statistical standards and recommendations will provide the basis for transparency and accountability.
10. Technical cooperation activities will focus on key priorities, reflecting the needs of countries. They will be demand-driven and will focus on areas where United Nations standards exist, such as population censuses, indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals, national accounts, prices, business statistics, gender disaggregated statistics and statistical data dissemination.
11. The data work undertaken by the subprogramme will respond to sustained internal and external demands. Data will be accessible to the public via the Internet. A quality framework will ensure the relevance, timeliness and user-friendliness of data dissemination.
12. Cooperation with the statistical services of other international organizations will continue in the form of joint meetings and working groups aimed at coordinating the development of methodologies and the preparation of standards, recommendations and the compilation of best practices, as well as by using modern tools of data sharing.

II. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the biennium 2012-2013

Cluster 1

Coordination of international statistical work in the ECE region

<i>Description of cluster</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
Ensure coordination of international statistical activities in the UNECE region and advocate for the UN Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics. Provide a forum for the Heads of national and international statistical organizations to address issues of current interest, exchange experience, and develop standards and recommendations to improve national statistics and their international comparability. Provide Secretariat support for the Conference and its Bureau.	Streamlined activity patterns of statistical work through coordination among international organizations and elimination of overlaps and gaps

Outputs/activities

(a) *Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

1.1 Conference of European Statisticians: 60th and 61st plenary sessions (10 half days)

1.2 Bureau of the Conference (12)

Documentation: Reports of the Conference (2); Papers for the coordination of international statistical work (12); Papers on issues of interest to the national statistical offices (12).

(b) *Publications and other information material*

1.3 Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA) as a tool to support coordination of international statistical work (2).

1.4 Information materials on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the Conference of European Statisticians (2).

(c) *Technical cooperation*

1.5 Meetings of the Project Working Group on statistics under the UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) (4 additional outputs compared to what was foreseen in the proposed programme budget) to coordinate capacity building activities and ensure that they reflect the priorities of the countries.

Cluster 2**UNECE Statistical Database**

<i>Description of cluster</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
<p>Provide reliable, timely and comparable macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics in an online database for the ECE countries in English and Russian, including data on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and gender equality.</p> <p>The database provides source data for publications and articles on the economic and social development of the ECE region, and helps identify priorities for ECE methodological work. The database provides a strategic resource for other ECE programmes to store and disseminate data.</p>	<p>Improved availability in the ECE database of reliable, timely and comparable statistics, including gender disaggregated data for all countries in the ECE region</p>

Outputs/activities*(a) Publications and other information material*

2.1 Updated ECE gender statistics database available online (2) including data on gender, population, families and households, work and the economy, education, public life, health and mortality, crime and violence, science and ICT as well as work-life balance.

2.2 Updated ECE macroeconomic statistics database available online (2) including data on national accounts, industrial production, labour force and wages, price indices, and external economic relations. A set of globalization indicators will be launched building on existing data.

2.3 Updated ECE database on MDG indicators (2) including national MDG indicators covering all eight Millennium Development Goals.

2.4 Provide annually the infrastructure for other ECE programmes to store and disseminate data, including the ECE transport statistics and forestry statistics (2).

2.5 Online clearinghouse of international migration data for EECCA countries to help reconcile the differences between immigration and emigration data of these countries (1 additional).

2.6 Articles on socio-economic development in the ECE region based on the statistical database in *ECE weekly* (2 annual sets of articles).

2.7 Publication *UNECE Countries in Figures 2013* (1) on the economic and social development in the ECE countries.

(c) Technical cooperation

2.8 Assistance on developing dissemination databases, in particular for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Cluster 3**Methodological work in economic statistics**

<i>Description of cluster</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
Develop and promote international standards, guidelines and recommendations to improve the quality and comparability of economic statistics, particularly in national accounts, globalization, price statistics, business registers and short-term statistics. This is done by analyzing the implementation of standards and guidelines and exchanging experience between countries. The work results in methodological and practical guidelines, collections of leading practices and training materials. Provide Secretariat support to the Teams of Specialists working in the area.	Updated and newly developed standards, methodologies and practices for ensuring internationally comparable statistics

Outputs/activities*(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

- 3.1 Meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts (8) to develop measurement of services, households' wellbeing and globalization of economies.
- 3.2 Meeting on Consumer Price Indices, in collaboration with ILO, (6) to discuss the upcoming guidelines on residential property prices.
- 3.3 Meeting on Business Registers (4, including 2 additional half days) to discuss the development of international guidelines on business registers.
- 3.4 Meeting of the Task Force on Global Production (4 additional) in conjunction with the meeting on National Accounts, subject to approval of the Conference, its Bureau and EXCOM.
- 3.5 Seminar on impact of globalisation on economic statistics (1 additional) in the context of the Astana forum, in collaboration with the Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Documentation: Papers for intergovernmental meetings on economic statistics (8).

(b) Publications and other information material

- 3.5 Conceptual and measurement guidelines on Global Production (output expected in biennium 2014-2015), subject to approval of the Conference, its Bureau and EXCOM.
- 3.6 Regional implementation plan for the 2008 System of National Accounts (1).
- 3.7 Methodological material: A wiki based platform for collection of best practices on dealing with the effects of globalization (1).

(c) Technical cooperation

Capacity building workshops are planned in the area of improving key economic statistics, for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, under the following project:

- 3.8 New Challenges in Economic Statistics (2011-2012), co-financed by the World Bank. The project includes training workshops and work sessions on short-term economic indicators and seasonal adjustment as well as implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts.

Cluster 4**Methodological work in social and demographic statistics**

<i>Description of cluster</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
Develop and promote international standards, guidelines and recommendations to improve the quality and comparability of social and demographic statistics, particularly in areas of population and housing censuses, migration, gender, health, crime and justice, quality of employment, and indicators on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This is done by analyzing the implementation of standards and guidelines and exchanging experience between countries. The work results in methodological and practical guidelines, collections of leading practices and training materials. Provide Secretariat support to the Teams of Specialists working in the area.	Updated and newly developed standards, methodologies and practices for ensuring internationally comparable statistics

Outputs/activities*(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

- 4.1 Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses (6) to exchange experiences with the current census round and start revising the recommendations for the next census round.
- 4.2 Meeting of the Expert Group on Register-based Censuses (4) to improve the efficiency and methods of census taking based on registers.
- 4.3 Work session on Migration Statistics (6) in collaboration with Eurostat.
- 4.4 Meeting of the Task Force on Improving Migration Statistics by Using Household Surveys (4).
- 4.5 Work session on Gender Statistics (6) to improve the quality of gender statistics and develop a set of indicators for monitoring gender-relevant policies.
- 4.6 Workshop on Gender Statistics (4) to discuss measurement of gender equality.
- 4.7 Work session on Crime Statistics (4), in collaboration with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Eurostat to improve comparability of crime statistics.
- 4.8 Meetings of the Task Force on Time Use Surveys (8 additional) to work towards harmonization of Time Use Surveys.
- 4.9 Regional meeting on Millennium Development Goals indicators (4) to share good practices in the production and use of MDG indicators.

Documentation: Papers for intergovernmental meetings on social and demographic statistics (15 papers).

(b) Publications and other information material

- 4.10 Methodological material: Guidelines on the harmonization of time use surveys (1).
- 4.11 Methodological material: Guidelines on the measurement of socio-economic conditions of migrants (1).
- 4.12 Methodological material: Guidelines on improving migration statistics by using household surveys, administrative data, population censuses and other data sources (1).

4.13 Statistical monograph: Principles of classifying crimes to improve international comparability of crime statistics (1).

4.14 Statistical monograph: Set of indicators to measure key aspects of gender equality (1).

4.15 Issue in the series of statistical standards and studies: Good practices in monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (1).

(c) *Technical cooperation*

Capacity building workshops are planned in the area of monitoring MDGs, gender statistics and migration statistics, under the following projects:

4.16 Enhancing key statistics and indicators to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals (2010-2012) — UN Development Account project of the 7th tranche for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

4.17 Strengthening statistics on international migration for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, with a special focus on the SPECA member countries.

4.18 Interregional cooperation to strengthen national capacities to measure progress in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment — UN Development Account project of the 8th tranche for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

4.19 International monitoring and observation mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina to support its population and housing census

Cluster 5

Methodological work in environment and sustainable development statistics

<i>Description of cluster</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
Work towards harmonization of approaches to measuring sustainable development, improve environmental indicators in EECCA countries, and support development of climate change related statistics in NSOs. The work results in methodological reports, practical guidelines, collections of leading practices and training materials. Provide Secretariat support to the Teams of Specialists working in the area.	Updated and newly developed standards, methodologies and practices for ensuring internationally comparable statistics

Outputs/activities

(a) *Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

5.1 A possible meeting of the Task Force on Measuring Sustainable Development (in collaboration with Eurostat and OECD) to finalize the report of the Task Force (3).

5.2 Meetings of the Intersectoral Task Force on Environmental Indicators, in collaboration with ECE Environment Division (10) to review methodologies and time series of selected environmental indicators. (6 additional)

5.3 Meetings of the Task Force on Climate Change related statistics (4 additional), subject to approval of the Conference, its Bureau and EXCOM.

Documentation: Papers for intergovernmental meetings on environment and sustainable development statistics and related areas (4).

(b) *Publications and other information material*

5.4 Report on Measuring Sustainable Development (1).

5.5 Review of the current state and data needs of Climate Change related statistics (output expected in the biennium 2014-2015) (2), subject to approval of the Conference, its Bureau and EXCOM.

(c) *Technical cooperation*

Capacity building workshops are planned in the area of sustainable development and environmental indicators for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, under the following project:

5.6 Strengthening statistical capacity of countries with economies in transition to assess progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goal on Environmental Sustainability and provide data on environmental vulnerabilities (2012-2013), UN Development Account Project of the 7th tranche.

Cluster 6

Methodological work on cross-cutting issues of official statistics

<i>Description of cluster</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
Develop and promote international standards, guidelines and recommendations to improve the processing and dissemination of data in statistical organizations, particularly in the areas of management of information systems, data editing, confidentiality, metadata, and dissemination and communication. Standardize electronic data interchange, in particular, develop and promote the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX). Promote good practices in human resources management in statistical offices. The work is done by analyzing the implementation of standards and guidelines and exchanging experience between countries. The work results in methodological and practical guidelines, collections of leading practices and training materials. Provide Secretariat support to the Teams of Specialists working in the area.	Updated and newly developed standards, methodologies and practices for ensuring internationally comparable statistics

Outputs/activities

(a) *Meetings and related parliamentary documentation*

6.1 Work session on Statistical Data Editing (5) to share ideas and good practices in the automation of data editing.

6.2 Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (10) to facilitate the sharing of software, ideas and experience between statistical organizations.

6.3 Work Session on Statistical Communication (10) to exchange best practices and prepare a new guide to improving statistical literacy.

6.4 Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality (5) to share ideas and good practices in this field.

6.5 Meeting of data collection experts (5) to identify needs for further work towards common tools and methods in data collection. (additional)

6.6 Workshop on Human Resources Management (5) to discuss recommendations on training of staff, implementation of e-learning and staff surveys in statistical offices. (additional)

6.7 Meeting on Modernizing Statistical Production (5), in collaboration with the Russian Federation, to encourage efficient and sustainable national statistical production systems. (additional)

6.8 Work Session on Statistical Metadata (5) to further develop the Common Metadata Framework and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model.

Documentation: Papers for intergovernmental meetings on statistical information systems (10)

(b) *Publications and other information material*

6.9 An issue in statistical standards and studies series: Guide on improving statistical literacy in the series of *Making data meaningful* (1).

6.10 Annual sets of press releases and articles in *ECE Weekly* on the occasion of meetings and the issuance of publications (2).

6.11 Maintenance of public electronic resources on the Internet for harmonizing statistical methodology (2), including wikis and knowledge bases, in the areas of statistical information systems, metadata, data editing, and the use of administrative and secondary data sources for official statistics.

6.12 Updated version of the UNECE Principles and Guidelines on Managing Statistical Confidentiality and Microdata Access, including new and revised national case studies (1).

(c) *Technical cooperation*

Capacity building activities are planned in the area of streamlining statistical production for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and South East Europe, under the following project:

6.13 Streamlining statistical production to raise awareness of new statistical production tools and to offer solutions for improving production processes

Cluster 7

Capacity building to ECE member countries

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
Ensure the production and dissemination of official statistics according to international standards and guidelines, including the advocacy for sound legal and institutional framework for national statistical systems in the South-East European and EECCA countries.	Improved assistance in the implementation of international standards and good practices in official statistics, in particular in less advanced countries of the ECE region, including on gender-sensitive indicators
Support the implementation and coordinate the capacity building activities undertaken under the Statistics subprogramme described in the other clusters. Conduct Global Assessments of national statistical systems to provide a clear picture of the state of	

development of official statistics in the countries to help them
programme development of statistics and enable planning of
support based on the needs.

Outputs/activities

(a) *Technical cooperation*

Enhancing the capacity of national statistical systems to meet international standards and guidelines, in particular the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, by:

7.1 Coordination of donor activities with a focus on Central Asia and Caucasus as described in cluster 1, in particular with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UNSD, Eurostat, EFTA, OECD, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), PARIS21, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), the World Bank, IMF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other bilateral and multilateral donors.

7.2 Consultations with management of national statistical offices in the form of Global Assessments at the request of countries in order to assess the national statistical system, in collaboration with Eurostat and EFTA (2 assessments).

7.3 Capacity building workshops within externally funded projects (5) and within the framework of UN Development Account projects (4) as listed in the respective clusters 3-6.

7.4 Advisory services conducted by ECE professionals to address country specific needs at the request of the country (3).

7.5 Development of new capacity building project proposals to address emerging needs for support in statistics in the ECE region.

Annex I

Legislative mandates

A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/253	World Summit on Sustainable Development
57/270 B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
57/274	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
59/250	Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations System
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
61/4	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
61/13	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe
61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
61/210	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
62/79	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
62/137	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

2006/14	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
2006/38	Work plan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2007/29	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16
2007/33	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
1997/224	Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe and Plan of Action

3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
E/ECE/RW.2/2000/7	ECE Report from the Regional Preparatory Meeting on the 2000 Review of Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, January 2000
E/ECE/1434/Rev.1	Work Plan on ECE Reform

B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
65/170	International migration and development
64/132	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
63/155	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
2009/8	2008 System of National Accounts
2005/13	2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme
2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity

3. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
A (64)	The work of the Economic Commission for Europe (paragraph 33, 34 and 35)
C (47)	The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the Region of the Economic Commission of Europe

4. United Nations Statistical Commission decisions

<i>Res No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
42/102	Gender statistics (gender equality)
42/107	Short-term economic indicators
42/111	Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
41/105	National accounts
40/110	Gender statistics (measuring violence against women)
39/114	Development indicators
39/112	Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata
39/111	Collection and dissemination of statistics
38/111	Statistical capacity-building