

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

For decision

Item 6 of the Provisional  
Agenda

**DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE 2014-2015 BIENNIUM.  
UNECE SUBPROGRAMME 03: STATISTICS**

**Prepared by the UNECE secretariat**

**I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT**

1. The UNECE, as a UN entity, works with a biennial programme and budget cycle. The preparation of the biennial programme starts about three years before the beginning of the biennium by defining a strategic framework which will form the basis for allocating a budget for the activities.

2. The strategic framework includes:

- the objective of the subprogramme;
- expected accomplishments;
- indicators of achievement; and
- strategy.

3. The strategic framework is approved in the first stage by the Sectoral Committee (the Conference of European Statisticians through its Bureau) and the Executive Committee of the UNECE.

4. After the approval of the Sectoral Committee and EXCOM, the following steps are the specification of a schedule of outputs and resource requirements approximately two years before the biennium. The strategic framework, outputs and resources are then discussed by the 5<sup>th</sup> Committee of the UN General Assembly (GA) within one year before the biennium and finally approved by the 5<sup>th</sup> Committee and the General Assembly.

**5. The CES Bureau is invited to approve the strategic framework for 2014-15 presented below.**

## Strategic Framework 2014-2015

### Subprogramme 03: STATISTICS

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**Objective of the Organization:** 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 ECE region

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#### Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

#### Indicators of achievement

(a) Streamlined international statistical work	<p>(a) (i) Number of international organizations regularly reporting their activities to the Database of International Statistical Activities maintained by ECE</p> <p><i>Performance measures</i></p> <p>2010-2011: 26 organizations</p> <p>Estimate 2012-2013: 27 organizations</p> <p>Target 2014-2015: 27 organizations</p> <p>(ii) Number of statistical areas reviewed in-depth by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians</p> <p><i>Performance measures</i></p> <p>2010-2011: 5 areas</p> <p>Estimate 2012-2013: 5 areas</p> <p>Target 2014-2015: 5 areas</p>
(b) Updated and newly developed standards, methodologies and practices to enhance international comparability of statistics	<p>(b) (i) Number of new or revised international statistical standards and recommendations developed with ECE contribution</p> <p><i>Performance measures</i></p> <p>2010-2011: 6 new or updated standards/recommendations</p> <p>Estimate 2012-2013: 6 new or updated standards/recommendations</p> <p>Target 2014-2015: 5 new or updated standards/recommendations</p> <p>(ii) Number of statistical areas (according to the Database of</p>

International Statistical Activities classification) to which ECE makes substantive methodological contribution

*Performance measures*

2010-2011: 27 areas

Estimate 2012-2013: 27 areas

Target 2014-2015: 27 areas

(c) Improved support to the implementation of international standards in official statistics, in particular in ECE countries with less advanced statistical systems, including on Millennium Development Goals and gender-sensitive indicators

(c) (i) Number of global assessments of national statistical systems, which include an assessment of the compliance with international standards

*Performance measures*

2010-2011: 3 global assessments

Estimate 2012-2013: 4 global assessments

Target 2014-2015: 4 global assessments

(ii) Percentage of national experts that express satisfaction with the relevance and quality of the ECE advisory services, training courses, and workshops

*Performance measures*

2010-2011: 75 per cent

Estimate 2012-2013: 80 per cent

Target 2014-2015: 80 per cent

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(d) Improved availability in the ECE database of relevant, timely and comparable statistics, including Millennium Development Goals indicators and gender disaggregated data

(d) (i) Number of statistical data time series available in the ECE database

Performance measures

2010-2011: 150 time series

Estimate 2012-2013: 155 time series

Target 2014-2015: 160 time series

(ii) Percentage of users that express satisfaction with the quality, coverage and timeliness of data contained in the ECE database

Performance measures

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2010-2011: 80 per cent

Estimate 2012-2013: 80 per cent

Target 2014-2015: 80 per cent

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## Strategy

6. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Statistical Division. The subprogramme aims to improve the quality of official statistics for evidence based economic, social and environmental policy making, and assessing progress towards international development goals.

7. Coordinating international statistical activities in the region will remain a central component of the strategy under the subprogramme. Strong involvement of national statistical organizations in setting the priorities will ensure that the work focuses on issues of current concern for countries. Cooperation with the statistical services of other international organizations will continue in the form of joint meetings and working groups to develop methodologies, standards, recommendations and best practices. The subprogramme will maintain a Database of International Statistical Activities as a tool to support coordination.

8. The subprogramme will focus on a selected number of subject areas, in particular those where ECE can provide added value and complement the international statistical work. The work will be undertaken in close cooperation with experts from ECE member countries and international organizations in the form of expert groups that perform specific tasks, within a set timeframe. The work will result in the development of methodological and practical guidelines and leading practices in statistics, including training materials available on the web. Public access to all related documents will ensure transparency and accountability.

9. The subprogramme will provide support to the countries of the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia as well as South-East Europe regarding existing United Nations standards and best practices and their implementation at the national level. To this end, the subprogramme will promote the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and provide advice on institutional frameworks of official statistics, e.g. by conducting global assessments of national statistical systems. The advisory work will be demand-driven focusing on areas where United Nations standards and recommendations exist, such as population censuses, Millennium Development Goals, national accounts, prices, business statistics, gender disaggregated statistics, environmental indicators and streamlining of statistical production.

10. The subprogramme will collect and disseminate economic and social data, including on the progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and gender equality. Data will be accessible for the public on the Internet. A quality framework will ensure the relevance, timeliness and user-friendliness of data dissemination. The data will offer insights into national statistics and help to identify priorities for improvement of the quality and comparability of official statistics.

## External factors

11. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that (a) there is a willingness to cooperate on the part of international statistical organizations, in particular the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, as well as on the part of the national statistical organizations of ECE member countries, (b) resource constraints would not hamper the participation of national statistical offices in international work nor impede the implementation of the resulting standards, (c) resources are available in order to provide support for the national statistical organizations of countries with less developed statistical systems, (d) data needed for the ECE statistical database are made available by the national and international statistical organizations free of charge, and the technological infrastructure is sufficient for databases and web dissemination.

### Mandates. Subprogramme 3 Statistics

#### *General Assembly resolutions*

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

#### *Economic and Social Council resolutions*

2009/8	2008 System of National Accounts
2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity
2005/13	2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme

#### *Economic Commission for Europe decisions*

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

#### *United Nations Statistical Commission decisions*

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

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