

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

For discussion and recommendations

Item 7 of the Provisional
Agenda

REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Prepared by the UNECE secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), at its 64th session in March 2011, initiated a review of the UNECE work and the reform undertaken in 2005. The review will take place in 2011-2012 and aims to provide concrete recommendations for the future work priorities for each subprogramme in the UNECE. The review will be carried out by the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM), a body that was established after the 2005 UNECE reform to implement the overall guidance set by the Commission and act on its behalf in between the biennial sessions.

2. As a first step, the secretariats of the UNECE 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 will review the statistics subprogramme at a meeting on 29 November 2011. The Chair of the CES will participate at the meeting.

3. 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. The recommendations will be implemented after spring 2013 and will be reflected in the work programme of the CES and UNECE Statistical Division from 2014 onwards.

4. The UNECE secretariat would like to draw the attention of the Bureau to the following three documents providing background information for the review by EXCOM on 29 November:

- (a) Information requested by EXCOM for the ECE review: Subprogramme 3 – Statistics (ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/13/Add.1);
- (b) Current areas of activity, key results achieved in 2010-11 and expected future results (ECE/CES/ BUR/2011/NOV/13/Add.2);
- (c) New or emerging issues/activities and expected future results (ECE/CES/BUR/2011/NOV/13/Add.3).

5. The Bureau is invited to provide comments on the documents, and advice in particular on the activities to be enumerated in “New or emerging issues/activities and their expected future results” (ECE/CES/ BUR/2011/NOV/13/Add.3).

* * * * *