

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

For discussion and recommendations

Item 12 of the Provisional
Agenda

MODERNIZATION OF STATISTICAL PRODUCTION

PROPOSAL FOR A HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR TO BE ORGANIZED IN COOPERATION WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Prepared by the UNECE secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Russian Federation and the UNECE propose to organise jointly 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 countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).
2. Below is the draft concept note for the meeting that was sent to the Russian Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office at Geneva in the beginning of October.
3. **The Bureau is invited to comment on the organization of the proposed meeting.**

II. ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS

4. Organizers: Rosstat and the UNECE Statistical Division
5. Place: Moscow or St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
6. Dates: 2.5 days, 3-5 October 2012
7. Participants: The Seminar is targeted at the Heads of national statistical organisations of the UNECE region, with a special focus on CIS countries. Other interested countries outside the UNECE region and international organizations will also be invited to contribute and participate.
8. Total number of expected participants is 50, out of them 13 financed by the organisers (10 from the CIS countries and 3 from the UNECE Statistical Division).
9. Language: English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation

III. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SEMINAR

10. The objective of the seminar is to discuss recent ideas and approaches, and share good practice in modernizing and streamlining statistical processes, to improve the efficiency of statistical production and strengthen the coordination of national statistical systems.

11. The development of new approaches to statistical production is driven by the need to respond to new requirements for statistical information including complex cross-cutting issues such as globalization, sustainable development, and climate change. Whilst the recent global economic crisis and its impact on public finance will most probably reduce the capacity of national statistical systems to adapt to emerging requirements, rapid technological developments create new possibilities for collecting, processing, integrating and disseminating statistical information in a more efficient way.

12. The seminar will focus on the trade off between increasing demand for timely and quality statistical data and the constant strong pressures for efficiency gains and reduction of respondent burden in the production of the information.

13. The Seminar will be organized in three sessions:

(a) Adapting the business architecture for streamlining statistical production processes

14. Traditionally, the statistical production process, from survey design, through data collection and processing to dissemination, takes place independently for each statistical domain and each has its own data suppliers, processing systems, methodologies and user groups. This approach may have worked in the past, but it is now challenged by a rapidly changing environment, including new demands, new data sources and significant technological and methodological advances.

15. The focus of this session will be the implications of these changes for the organisation and management of statistical production. Various current global and regional initiatives will be discussed, including the vision and strategy of the High-Level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics, increased standardisation, the management of metadata and quality, and the implementation of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).

(b) Effective coordination of national statistical systems – centralized vs. decentralized

16. Statistical systems are described as either centralized or decentralized depending on to which extent the responsibility to collect, process and disseminate official statistics lies with one single central institution. Statistical systems are said to be centralized when all, or most, of the products of the statistical system are produced and disseminated by a central organization. Conversely systems are said to be decentralized when statistics are produced by many different agencies or ministries depending on the domains (functional decentralization) or by different territorial statistical bodies (regional decentralization).

17. Depending on the size and the administrative and territorial organization of the country, both systems might have advantages and disadvantages, but eventually the objective of centralized and decentralized systems must be to provide users with authoritative, high quality, relevant and timely statistics that meet their needs. The issues of coordination, consultation, planning, priority setting, quality evaluation and monitoring and, last but not least, efficiency, will be addressed. The session will review different

organizations of national statistical systems in the UNECE and share good practices on effective coordination tools and mechanisms.

(c) Integrated economic statistics

18. The internationally accepted guidelines on economic statistics, including the System of National Accounts 2008, the Balance of Payments Manual and more specialized guidelines ranging from the measurement of prices to the measurement of foreign direct investment aim to support national statistical offices in their production of relevant and internationally comparable economic statistics. In order to produce consistent and coherent economic statistics there is a need to integrate the production of economic statistics.

19. The session will focus on the scope for integration of economic statistics at all levels of the production process, from data collection to data processing and dissemination. This will include discussion of various data sources and the implementation of common definitions and classifications across statistical domains. Integration of economic statistics offers an opportunity for streamlining of the statistical production processes and increasing the efficiency. The session will also discuss this aspect.

IV. ESTIMATED BUDGET

20. The estimated budget for the event is \$36,600 to cover the logistical arrangements for the meeting, translation and interpretation, and the travel and Daily Subsistence Allowance of the 13 participants financed by the organisers. The financial support is to be provided by the Russian Federation.

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