

Meeting of the 2014/2015 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 21-22 October 2014

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will start at 9:30 on Tuesday, 21 October and is planned to finish around 17:00 on Wednesday, 22 October 2014. The meeting will take place in Room XV at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

The traditional subscription dinner will be organised on Tuesday, 21 October 2014.

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. The documents will also be uploaded on the following website: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/bureau/CES+Bureau (username: ces; password: bureau8).

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY WAYNE SMITH

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. These reviews are a key tool for the CES Bureau to coordinate statistical activities in the region. They often lead to new work in topical areas and result in tangible outputs such as guidelines or recommendations.

(a) **Demographic projections** – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/2 by Canada and the United Kingdom)

2. The discussion will be based on a paper by Canada and the United Kingdom. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

(b) **Measuring extreme events and disasters** – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/3 by Mexico)

3. The discussion will be based on a paper by Mexico. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

III. **CES MEMBERS' GUIDEBOOK** – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/4 prepared by Canada)

4. To facilitate the work of the members of Conference and Bureau, Canada took the initiative to prepare, in consultation with the UNECE Secretariat, a CES Members' Guidebook. The Guidebook provides short information on CES and its Bureau: their role, history, working procedures, outputs, and on the ways they support international statistical development in the UNECE region and beyond. The Guidebook aims to provide practical information for the

members attending the meetings, preparing CES seminars and in-depth review papers, etc. The Bureau is invited to discuss the Guidebook, and make suggestions for its finalization.

IV. MEETING WITH THE NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF UNECE

5. Traditionally, the CES Bureau meets with the Executive Secretary and/or the representatives of the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) when the Bureau meeting is held in Geneva. Mr. Christian Friis Bach, the newly appointed UNECE Executive Secretary, will meet with the Bureau.

V. UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME FOR 2015 – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/5 by UNECE)

6. The draft programme of work for the UNECE Statistical Division in 2015 will be presented to the Bureau for discussion and approval. The discussion will focus on the new or substantially changed activities of the work programme.

7. The work of the Steering Groups and Task Forces set up by the CES Bureau is also reviewed under this agenda item. The groups are created for a particular task with concrete terms of reference, output, timeframe (2-3 years) and a sunset clause. The work results in methodological and practical guidelines, collections of leading practices and training materials available on the web. The terms of reference of active Steering Groups and Task Forces are available at www.unece.org/stats/ToS.html

(a) Ageing-related statistics (progress report) – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/6 by the Task Force)

8. In February 2013 the Bureau set up a Task Force on ageing related statistics involving statisticians, policymakers and academia. The Bureau asked the Task Force to report on its progress at the October 2014 Bureau meeting. The Bureau is invited to review the progress and provide advice on further work.

(b) Time-use surveys (further work) – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/7 by UNECE)

9. At its January 2014 meeting the Bureau discussed follow-up work after the endorsement of the *Guidelines for harmonizing time-use surveys*, and expressed support to the proposed activities, namely (a) collecting methodological material on time-use surveys and making it available on the UNECE website, and (b) consulting with CES members a proposal to set up a Task Force for developing guidelines on valuing unpaid household work. The Bureau is invited to review the progress made and approve the proposal for further work.

(c) Political and other community activities (further work) – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/8 by UNECE)

10. The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of this topic in February 2013 based on a paper by Mexico. In January 2014, the Bureau asked the secretariat to consult with a small group of countries/organizations and develop a proposal on the way forward in this area. The Bureau is invited to consider the proposal based on the outcome of the consultations and decide on the way forward.

(d) Social protection (further work) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/9 by UNECE, OECD, World Bank and ILO)

11. In January 2014, the Bureau conducted an in-depth review of measuring social protection and recognised the need for more harmonisation in this area. The Bureau noted that the Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B) who is working towards harmonization in this field plans to hold a meeting in May 2014. The Secretariat, in consultation with OECD, World Bank and ILO was asked to inform the Bureau about the outcome of this meeting. On that basis, the Bureau is invited to decide on possible further work.

(e) Entrepreneurship (further work) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/10 by UNECE, OECD and Eurostat)

12. In October 2013, the Bureau conducted an in-depth review of entrepreneurship statistics. The Bureau asked the Secretariat, in cooperation with OECD and Eurostat, to draft a proposal for further work taking into account the outcome of the meeting of the Eurostat/OECD Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme, held in May 2014. The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve the proposal for further work.

(f) Climate change (further work) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/11 by UNECE)

13. The CES 2014 plenary session endorsed the *CES Recommendations on climate change related statistics* in April 2014, and expressed support to the proposals for further work. These proposals were consulted with the CES member countries during a large electronic consultation in February-March 2014. The Conference asked the Bureau to discuss the next steps at its meeting in October 2014. The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve the proposal for further work.

(g) Environmental indicators (extension of ToR) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/12 by the Task Force)

14. The UNECE Intersectoral Task Force on environmental indicators was set up in February 2009, jointly with the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, to improve environmental statistics and strengthen environmental reporting in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. Over the last 5 years, the Task Force has held 10 meetings and workshops, has reviewed all the 36 indicators from the *Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*, and developed 14 additional indicators. The focus of further work will be on the production and online dissemination of the indicators.

15. The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve the terms of reference for continuation of work in this area. The terms of reference will also be presented for approval to the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (28-31 October 2014).

(h) Leading, composite and sentiment indicators (further work) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/13 by UNECE)

16. The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of this topic in January 2014. The topic was further discussed at the CES 2014 plenary session to seek input from all CES members. The Conference asked the Bureau to follow up on the issues raised in the electronic consultation

and during the discussion at the CES plenary session. The Bureau is invited to decide on possible further work in this area.

(i) Modernization of statistical production and services – *for discussion and recommendations* (ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/14 by UNECE)

17. The High-level Group for the modernization of statistical production and services was set up in 2009 to modernize the way official statistics are produced. In April 2014, the Conference strongly supported the work of the High-Level Group and expressed appreciation for the results achieved under their 2013 projects. The High-Level Group has developed innovative working methods that could be more widely applied. The Bureau will be invited to review the progress made and discuss the new working practices based on a paper by the Secretariat.

(j) Other issues related to the Statistical Programme

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

VI. REPORT ON GENDER EQUALITY INDICATORS – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/15 prepared by the Task Force)

19. In April 2014, the CES reviewed the report on gender equality indicators prepared by a Task Force chaired by Italy. The CES supported the outcome of work, including suggestions for further work specified in the Report. During the electronic consultation of the Report prior to the CES plenary session, the CES members also provided detailed comments on specific issues, and suggestions for revising and clarifying the text. The Report has now been finalized taking into account the comments. The Bureau is invited to endorse the finalized Report.

20. A proposal for further work based on the issues identified in the Report will be presented to the Bureau in February 2015.

VII. HOW TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF CES WORK INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CES GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/16 by UNECE)

21. In January 2014, the Bureau approved the biennial Programme Performance Report of UNECE statistics subprogramme activities carried out in 2012-2013 (required according to the rules of the UN planning and budgeting process). The Bureau noted that the Report is rather technical and not that useful for evaluating the activities under CES. Therefore, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to make a proposal on how to better evaluate the impact of the CES activities and the various guidelines and recommendations developed under CES. The Bureau is invited to review the proposal.

22. Furthermore, according to the ECE evaluation policy, all subprogrammes are asked to conduct internal evaluations of their work in addition to the formal Programme Performance Reports to measure the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of activities. The UNECE Statistical Division plans to conduct an evaluation on the topic “Review of UNECE work on measuring sustainable development and related areas” in 2016. The Bureau is invited to approve the topic of the planned evaluation and advise how to carry it out.

VIII. FOLLOW-UP TO THE CES 2014 PLENARY SESSION

(a) Evaluation of the 62nd plenary session (UNECE) – *for information*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/17 by UNECE)

23. The results of the evaluation questionnaires of the 2014 CES plenary session will be presented for information.

(b) Follow-up to the CES seminar “What is the value of official statistics and how do we communicate that value?” (further work) – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/18 by UNECE)

24. In April 2014, the Conference agreed on a number of follow-up actions resulting from this seminar. The Bureau is invited to discuss how to implement the follow-up actions suggested by the Conference based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

(c) Follow-up to the CES seminar on migration statistics (further work) – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/19 by UNECE)

25. In April 2014, the Conference noted that there is an increasing demand for better and more detailed migration statistics and agreed on a list of follow-up actions to the CES seminar. Furthermore, in January 2014 the Bureau reviewed the proposed terms of reference for a Steering Group on migration statistics. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to revise the terms of reference to take into account the comments by the Bureau and the outcome of the CES seminar in April 2014, and to report back to the Bureau in October 2014.

26. The Bureau is invited to discuss how to implement the follow-up actions suggested by the Conference based on a proposal by the Secretariat, and to approve the updated terms of reference for a Steering Group on migration statistics.

IX. PREPARATION FOR THE CES 2015 PLENARY SESSION

(a) Organization of the CES 2015 seminar on the response of official statistics to Sustainable Development Goals – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/20 by Switzerland)

27. The CES plenary session selected this topic for one of the two CES 2015 seminars taking into account the results of the survey carried out among the CES members in March 2014 and the recommendation by the CES Bureau. The Bureau is invited to discuss the organization of the seminar based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizer, Switzerland.

(b) Organization of the CES 2015 seminar on modernization of statistical production and services and managing for efficiency – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/21 by Ireland and Italy)

28. The CES plenary session selected this topic for the other CES 2015 seminar. The Bureau is invited to discuss the organization of the seminar based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizers, Ireland and Italy.

(c) Report on measuring quality of employment to be submitted to the CES 2015 plenary session – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/22 by the Expert Group)

29. The Bureau set up the Expert Group on measuring quality of employment (chaired by Germany) in February 2012 to develop operational definitions and guidelines for calculating indicators of quality of employment, and to explore the data sources for measuring quality of employment. The Expert Group was created to follow up on issues identified for further work in the *Report on Potential indicators for measurement of quality of employment*, approved by CES in 2010.

30. The Bureau is invited to comment on the draft document and to decide whether it can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to present it to the CES 2015 plenary session for endorsement.

(d) Report on business registers to be submitted to the CES 2015 plenary session – *for information*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/23 by the Task Force)

31. The Bureau set up the Task Force on international guidelines on statistical business registers (chaired by Austria) in November 2011 to produce a set of guidelines to help countries in developing and maintaining business registers, and to compile recommendations of good practices. The Report is planned to be presented to the CES 2015 plenary session for endorsement. The Bureau will be informed about progress of work.

(e) Preparation of the formal session, draft agenda and timetable for the 2015 plenary session – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2014/OCT/24 by UNECE)

32. The Bureau is invited to discuss and approve the first draft agenda of the CES plenary session in 2015.

X. PRESENTATION OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM'S ACTIVITIES RELATED TO STATISTICS

– for discussion and recommendations

33. The Bureau regularly discusses the work and strategies of international organisations in statistics. In previous years, IMF, World Bank, Eurostat, UNSD, OECD, CIS-STAT, ILO, WTO, WMO, European Central Bank, UNEP and WHO have presented their statistical activities to the Bureau.

34. The World Economic Forum will be invited to present their activities related to statistics for discussion at the Bureau meeting.

XI. DISCONTINUATION OF THE FAO-CES STUDY GROUP ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS – *for decision*

35. The FAO-CES Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe was established in 1959 by the Conference of European Statisticians and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The last meeting of the Study Group was held from 29

June to 1 July 2005 in Rome, Italy. The Group has not been active since then. Furthermore, the CES Bureau made an in-depth review of agriculture statistics in October 2008 and had a follow-up discussion in June 2010. The Bureau decided that there was no need to launch any activities on agriculture statistics under CES in addition to the work that is carried out by other organisations in this area.

36. The Bureau is therefore invited to formally discontinue the FAO-CES Study Group on food and agricultural statistics.

XII. DATES AND VENUE OF THE NEXT CES BUREAU MEETINGS – *for decision*

37. The Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venue of its next meetings. At its January 2014 meeting, the Bureau decided that its next meetings will take place on 17-18 February 2015 in Geneva and on 20-21 October 2015, venue to be decided. The Bureau meetings in 2016 are tentatively scheduled to take place during the week of 8 February and 18-19 October.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS – *for decision*

38. 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 publicly available on Internet before the meeting adjourns.

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