

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting of the 2016/2017 Bureau
Geneva, 14-15 February 2017

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will start at 9:30 on Tuesday, 14 February and is planned to finish around 17:00 on Wednesday, 15 February 2017. The meeting will take place at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

The traditional subscription dinner will be organised on Tuesday, 14 February 2017.

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

I. OPENING BY MARJO BRUUN

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

1. The CES Bureau regularly reviews selected statistical areas in depth. The aim of the reviews is to improve coordination of statistical activities in the UNECE region, identify gaps or duplication of work, and address emerging issues. The reviews often lead to new work in topical areas and tangible outputs such as guidelines or recommendations.

(a) **Data integration** – *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/2 by New Zealand, Canada and UNECE)

2. The in-depth review of data integration will be based on a paper by New Zealand, Canada and UNECE. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

(b) **Selection of topics for in-depth reviews in 2017-2018** – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/3 by UNECE)

3. The Bureau will be invited to select the topics to be reviewed in-depth in 2017-2018 based on a proposal prepared by the Secretariat.

III. UNECE STATISTICAL WORK AND CES TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

(a) **Exchange of economic data** – *for decision* (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/4 by Finland)

4. In October 2016, the Bureau conducted an in-depth review of the exchange of economic data based on a paper by Finland. The Bureau decided to ask a group of countries and international organizations to: (i) identify the key work streams and priorities for further work in this area; (ii) develop terms of reference for a Task Force; and (iii)

establish a network of experts dealing with large and complex enterprises in countries to exchange best practices.

5. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the terms of reference for a Task Force on Exchange of Economic Data to undertake further work in this area.

(b) Consumer Price Indices – *for discussion and recommendations* (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/5 and 5/Add.1 by UNECE, ILO, IMF and OECD)

6. In October 2016, when discussing the Statistical Programme for 2017, the Bureau noted that the work on Consumer Price Indices (CPI) should go beyond the technical questions of CPI calculation to take into account its different uses. The Bureau asked UNECE, together with ILO, IMF and OECD to prepare a paper about the ongoing work and emerging developments related to CPI. The paper proposes to set up a Steering Group to guide the CES work on CPI. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the issues raised in the paper and review and approve the terms of reference for a Steering Group on CPI.

(c) Satellite Accounts for Education and Training and further work on human capital – *for decision* (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/6 by UNECE)

7. In October 2016, the Bureau reviewed the *Guide on Measuring Human Capital* and supported the proposals for further work, including organizing the pilot testing of satellite accounts for education and training. A group of countries have expressed interest in participating in the pilot testing. The Bureau asked for the terms of reference for this work to be presented in February 2017. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the terms of reference for a Task Force on Satellite Accounts for Education and Training.

(d) Waste statistics – *for decision* (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/7 by the Netherlands and UNECE)

8. In October 2016, the Bureau considered a proposal for work on waste statistics based on a paper by the Netherlands and UNECE, prepared in consultation with Armenia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Ukraine, Eurostat, OECD and UNSD. The Bureau approved the proposal for further work and asked the Secretariat, together with the interested parties, to prepare concrete terms of reference for the work. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the terms of reference for a Task Force on Waste Statistics.

(e) Extreme events and disasters – *for decision* (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/8 by the Task Force)

9. In February 2015, the Bureau set up a Task Force on Measuring Extreme Events and Disasters to develop recommendations on this topic by first half of 2017. The Task Force has worked actively and established links with other groups and organizations involved in this area. Due to the need to align the work with the other related processes, the Task Force has updated its terms of reference and is seeking to extend its mandate by two years. The Bureau will be invited to review the updated terms of reference for the Task Force on measuring extreme events and disasters and decide on the extension of its mandate.

(f) Ageing statistics – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/9 by the Task Force)

10. In October 2016, the Bureau approved the *Recommendations on ageing-related statistics* and asked the Secretariat together with the Task Force to draft terms of reference for further work. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the terms of reference for the Task Force on Measuring Institutional Population.

(g) Measuring poverty and inequality – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/10 by UNECE)

11. Over the years, UNECE has organised a number of seminars and workshops on poverty measurement. These have shown the diverse challenges of providing information on poverty and inequality, and the need to streamline the work and prioritize the areas for methodological development. The July 2016 seminar on poverty measurement concluded that a Steering Group would be needed to guide UNECE work in this area, prepare expert meetings, advance methodological work and follow up on the implementation of the *Guide on Poverty Measurement* that will be submitted for endorsement to the CES plenary session in June 2017 (the draft Guide is presented to Bureau for review under item IV (g) of the Bureau meeting).

12. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the terms of reference for the Steering Group on Measuring Poverty and inequality.

(h) Measuring intra-household power and decision-making – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/11 by the Steering Group on Gender Statistics)

13. In February 2015, the Bureau approved the new mandate of the Steering Group on Gender Statistics and asked the Group to develop a plan for taking forward methodological work on measuring the gendered power and decision-making relationships within a household. The Steering Group has prepared a work plan and suggests setting up a Task Force to advance the methodological work in this area. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the terms of reference for the Task Force on Measuring Intra-Household Power and Decision-Making.

(i) High-level group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/12 by HLG-MOS)

14. In October 2013, the Bureau approved the governance structure for the modernization work and the terms of references for the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS), its Executive Board and four modernisation committees. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the updated terms of reference and a new governance structure for HLG-MOS, and decide on the extension of the mandate of HLG-MOS and its subgroups.

(j) Strategic partnerships – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/13 by Canada and United Kingdom)

15. In October 2016, the Bureau discussed follow-up actions to the 2016 CES seminar on strategic partnerships and asked a group of countries, co-led by Canada and the United Kingdom, to prepare a concept note to take stock of the legal and other issues related to strategic partnerships in official statistics. The Bureau will be invited to review and discuss the concept note and decide on possible follow-up work on strategic partnerships.

(k) Joint work by GGIM-Europe and CES – for discussion and recommendations (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/14 by UNECE, Austria, Mexico, Sweden and GGIM-Europe)

16. The Bureau discussed geospatial statistics in October 2016, following the decisions of the 2016 CES plenary session on geospatial information and statistics, the ECOSOC resolution (E/2016/L.28) and the request of UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM). The Bureau asked the Secretariat to prepare a proposal, together with Austria, Mexico, Sweden and the GGIM-Europe, for joint activities by statisticians and the geospatial community under the Conference. The Bureau will be informed about the recent developments, including the outcomes of deliberations of EXCOM in December 2016, and will be invited to comment on the proposal for possible activities that can be undertaken jointly by CES and UN-GGIM Europe.

IV. PREPARATION OF THE CES 2017 PLENARY SESSION

(a) Organization of the 2017 CES seminar on measuring poverty – for discussion and recommendations (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/15 by Israel, Mexico and UNECE)

17. The CES plenary session selected this topic for one of the 2017 CES seminars. The seminar will take place on Monday, 19 June 2017. In October 2016, the Bureau provided comments on the initial seminar outline. The Bureau will be invited to provide advice on the organization of the seminar based on the updated outline by the seminar organizers, Israel, Mexico and UNECE.

(b) Organization of the 2017 CES seminar on the next generation of statisticians and data scientists – for discussion and recommendations (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/16 by Finland and Eurostat)

18. The CES plenary session selected this topic for one of the 2017 CES seminars. The seminar will take place on Tuesday, 20 June 2017. In October 2016, the Bureau provided comments on the initial seminar outline. The Bureau will be invited to provide advice on the organization of the seminar based on the updated outline by the seminar organizers, Finland and Eurostat.

(c) Draft agenda and timetable for the 2017 CES plenary session – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/17 by UNECE)

19. The Bureau will be invited to discuss and approve the provisional agenda and timetable of the 2017 CES plenary session that has been updated to reflect the discussions at the October 2016 Bureau meeting.

(d) Road Map on statistics for SDGs (to be submitted to CES 2017) – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/18 by the Steering Group)

20. In June 2015, the Conference decided to launch work on a road map for the development of official statistics for the monitoring of SDGs. Consequently, the Bureau set up a Steering Group to prepare the road map. The Steering Group presented the first draft road map for discussion to the 2016 CES plenary session and a revised draft to the October 2016 Bureau meeting. The Bureau will be invited to comment on the updated *Road Map on Statistics for SDGs* and decide whether the document can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be presented to the CES 2017 plenary session for endorsement.

(e) Set of Key Climate Change-related Indicators (to be submitted to CES 2017) – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/19 by the Task Force)

21. In October 2014, The Bureau set up the Task Force on a Set of Key Climate Change-related Statistics to: (i) define an internationally comparable set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators; (ii) explore the use of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) for the set; and (iii) draft definitions and suggested data sources for the indicators. The Bureau will be invited to comment on the draft *Set of Key Climate Change-related Indicators* and decide whether the document can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be presented to the CES 2017 plenary session for endorsement.

(f) Recommendations on the Value of Official Statistics (to be submitted to CES 2017) – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/20 by the Task Force)

22. In March 2015, the Bureau established a Task Force on Value of Official Statistics to define what users, stakeholders and society value in official statistics, and develop ways for its measurement that will allow for better understanding and communication of this value to society. The Task Force presented the interim recommendations for discussion to the 2016 CES plenary session. The Bureau will be invited to comment on the draft *Recommendations on the Value of Official Statistics* and decide whether they can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be presented to the CES 2017 plenary session for endorsement.

(g) Guide on Poverty Measurement (to be submitted to CES 2017) – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/21 by the Task Force)

23. The Bureau set up the Task Force on Poverty Measurement in February 2014 to develop guidelines and provide recommendations for improving the international comparability and availability of statistics on poverty and the related metadata. The Bureau will be invited to comment on the draft *Guide on Poverty Measurement* and decide whether it can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be presented to the CES 2017 plenary session for endorsement.

(h) Recommendations on Measuring Unpaid Household Work (to be submitted to the CES 2017) – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/22 by the Task Force)

24. In October 2014, the Bureau established a Task Force to develop guidance on how to value unpaid household service work. The Bureau will be invited to comment on the draft *Recommendations on Measuring Unpaid Household Work* and decide whether they can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be presented to the CES 2017 plenary session for endorsement.

(i) Good practices in the communication of population projections (to be submitted to CES 2017) – for decision (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/23 by the Task Force)

25. In February 2015, the Bureau established a Task Force on Population Projections to promote the sharing of good practices on communicating population projections and to create mechanisms for collecting and disseminating metadata on national and international population projections. The Bureau will be invited to comment on the draft *Collection of Good Practices*

in the Communication of Population Projections and decide whether it can be circulated for electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be submitted to the CES 2017 plenary session. The Bureau will also be invited to comment on the proposal for information content to be included in the new UNECE Database on Population Projections Metadata

V. UNECE PROGRAMME OF WORK DOCUMENTS – *for decision*

26. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the official documents of the Statistics subprogramme prepared in the context of the United Nations secretariat's biennial planning and reporting cycle. The following documents are submitted to the CES Bureau for approval:

- (a) Programme of Work for 2018-2019 with a publication programme (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/24)
- (b) Implementation of the Statistical Programme 2016 (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/25)

VI. OUTCOMES OF THE WORLD DATA FORUM

– for discussion and recommendations

27. Statistics South Africa hosted the first United Nations World Data Forum from 15 to 18 January 2017, in Cape Town, with support from UNSD. The Forum took place following the recommendation in the report, "A World That Counts: Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development". The Forum consisted of 73 plenary and breakout sessions focusing on six themes: new approaches to capacity development for better data; innovations and synergies across different data ecosystems; leaving no one behind; understanding the world through data; data principles and governance; and the way forward. The concluding session introduced the Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, prepared by the HLG for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda. The Bureau will be informed of the outcomes of the Forum, and will be invited to discuss its implications for international statistical work in the region.

VII. DATES AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS

28. The Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venues of the next Bureau meetings and the next CES plenary sessions.

29. At its October 2016 meeting the Bureau decided on its next meetings as follows:

- 17-18 October 2017 (possibly in Yerevan, tbc),
- 13-14 February 2018 (venue to be decided)
- 16-17 October 2018 (venue to be decided).

30. The 65th CES plenary session will be held on 19-21 June 2017 in Geneva.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

31. Any other topics can be taken up under this agenda item.

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