

Meeting of the CES Bureau  
Geneva, (Switzerland), 14-15 February 2017

**REPORT**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) was held in Geneva on 14-15 February 2017. The following members of the Bureau attended: Ms. M. Bruun, (Chair, Finland), Mr. S. Mnatsakanyan (Armenia), Mr. K. Pesendorfer (Austria), Mr. A. Arora (Canada), Mr. J. Santaella (Mexico), and Mr. J. Pullinger (United Kingdom). The following permanent observers also attended: Mr. A. Kosarev, (CIS-STAT, representing Mr. V. Sokolin), Ms. M. Kotzeva (Eurostat), Mr. L. M. Ducharme (IMF), Ms. M. Durand, (OECD), and Ms. L. Bratanova, (UNECE).
2. Mr. J. Grice (United Kingdom) attended at the invitation of the Chair of the Bureau for agenda item IV (f), Mr. B. Rothen (Switzerland) for agenda item IV (d), and Mr. P. Dion (Canada) for agenda item IV (i).
3. The following persons assisted the members of the Bureau: Ms. C. Pereira De Sa (Eurostat). Ms. T. Luige (UNECE) served as Secretary of the meeting, backed up by Ms. A. Peltola (UNECE).
4. The following staff of the UNECE Statistical Division also attended: Mr. C. Boldsen, Ms. T. Dimova, Mr. M. Nagy, Mr. S. Vale and Mr. A. Vikat.

## II. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

### A. Data integration

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/2 by UNECE and the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics)*

5. The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of data integration based on a paper by the Secretariat and the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS). The following issues were raised in the discussion:
  - The review is very timely. The Bureau expressed strong support for the HLG-MOS project on data integration, as this topic is high on the agendas of statistical organizations;
  - In some countries, statisticians are asked to give guidance on cross-government data integration activities. This is part of a wider role of NSOs and linked with the value of official statistics;
  - There are many different types of data to be integrated and it may be difficult to have general guidelines;
  - Collecting good practices on data integration will be useful;
  - The outcomes of the HLG-MOS work on data integration will need to be promoted effectively to maximise the benefit;
  - One important type of data integration is the integration of statistical and geospatial data. Mexico is a good example of a country where this is facilitated at the institutional level;
  - Having 1-year projects under HLG-MOS gives flexibility but it is important to ensure continuity because some projects may require a longer time-span;
  - In data integration, as in other areas, new ideas are being developed under CES. These ideas and the related activities may subsequently be replicated and spread in other parts of the world and it is important to avoid duplication.

Conclusion:

6. The Bureau thanked HLG-MOS for the interesting review paper, and asked HLG-MOS to report to the Bureau on the outcomes of the 2017 project on data integration, including the collection of practical case studies and guidelines on data integration, in February 2018. The Bureau will then decide about possible follow-up activities. When the guidelines will be available, it is important to follow-up on their implementation.

7. The Bureau asked the project team to review other global initiatives related to data integration to avoid any possible duplication.

8. The Bureau asked the regular UNECE Meetings of Experts on Data Collection to provide a platform for discussing issues related to data integration.

9. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to raise the issue of the use of scanner data in price statistics with the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWGPS), so that this can be considered in the update of the Consumer Price Manual.

**B. Selection of topics for future in-depth reviews 2017-2018**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/3 by UNECE)*

Conclusion:

10. The following topics were selected to be discussed in-depth by the Bureau in October 2017 and February 2018, including the countries and organizations responsible for preparing the papers that will provide basis for the discussion:

- Gaps in gender statistics (Mexico to lead with input from the CES Steering Group on Gender Statistics, October 2017)
- Measuring social exclusion (Canada to lead, Mexico to contribute, February 2018)
- Redefining the national statistical systems (Finland will develop a more precise description of the topic, Canada offered to contribute to the review, timing to be confirmed)

11. A possible topic for in-depth review is “Emerging issues in statistical communication”. The in-depth review could cover challenges and emerging issues in communicating statistics, and analyse whether and how the current international activities are addressing the new developments in this area. At the same time, there is an urgent need to deal with issues related to use of social media in official statistics, possibly by organising a seminar on this topic. Austria, Canada and the United Kingdom offered to prepare a short concept note clarifying the emerging issues in statistical communication that could be covered by a possible in-depth review.

**III. UNECE STATISTICAL WORK AND CES TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS****A. Exchange of economic data**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/4 by Finland and UNECE)*

12. The Bureau reviewed the terms of reference for a Task Force on Exchange and Sharing of Economic Data prepared by Finland and UNECE, and raised the following issues:

- The issue is urgent and the work should be well focused and practical. It is important to identify enablers and obstacles of data sharing, and review the practical requirements for carrying out data exchange at national and international levels.

- The Task Force should prioritize the most urgent tasks to achieve first results within the next 12 months.
- The Bureau underlined the importance of data confrontation and the need to review the methods used to ensure data confidentiality.
- The work should not duplicate other related international initiatives and should build on what has already been achieved. The work may feed into further development of the Global Register of Enterprise Groups, undertaken by Eurostat and UNSD.
- Mexico expressed interest in participating in the Task Force. In addition, the Bureau considered important to invite the United States to join the Task Force.
- The Task Force should involve both national accountants and business statisticians.

Conclusion:

13. The Bureau asked to prioritize the tasks: to identify a first stage with the most urgent tasks and a second stage addressing the remaining tasks. The authors will redraft the terms of reference accordingly. The Secretariat will circulate in March 2017 the updated terms of reference to the Bureau for electronic endorsement.

14. The Bureau asked the Group of Experts on National Accounts to provide a platform for discussing the work on the exchange and sharing of economic data.

**B. Consumer Price Indices**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/BUR/5 and 5/Add.1 UNECE, ILO, IMF and OECD)*

15. The Bureau discussed current challenges and work on consumer price indices (CPIs) based on a paper by UNECE, prepared in consultation with Eurostat, ILO, IMF, OECD and the World Bank. The Bureau also considered the need to set up a Steering Group to guide the Secretariat's work on consumer price indices, and raised the following issues:

- The purpose of the Steering Group is to guide the Secretariat in its work on CPIs, including in the organization of the biennial Expert Group meetings on CPI and capacity building activities in the EECCA and SEE countries.
- The guidance by the Steering Group is important to ensure that the work is driven by the needs of countries and provides value added. The Group should identify emerging issues related to CPIs and guide the Secretariat in addressing the problems and challenges in this area.
- The work on price statistics in the CIS countries faces many challenges due to methodological differences and a lack of international comparability. CES support to overcome these challenges is very important.
- The Steering Group should ensure coordination of activities with other relevant international organizations and expert groups, such as the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWGPS), IMF, ILO, Eurostat, OECD, the World Bank, the Ottawa Group on Price Indices, the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics, etc.
- The use of scanner data for the production of CPI is an emerging area with significant potential in terms of quality improvement and cost reduction. Practical guidelines to statistical offices in this area would be useful.

Conclusion:

16. The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Steering Group on Consumer Price Indices, subject to taking into account comments made in the discussion.

**C. Further work on human capital: Satellite Accounts for Education and Training**  
(*ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/6 by Norway and UNECE*)

17. The Bureau discussed the terms of reference for a Task Force on Satellite Accounts for Education and Training prepared by Norway and UNECE. Eurostat expressed interest to be a member of the Task Force.

Conclusion:

18. The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Task Force on Satellite Accounts for Education and Training, and encouraged the Task Force to cooperate closely with the OECD education experts and with other relevant bodies.

**D. Waste statistics**

(*ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/7 by the Netherlands and UNECE*)

19. The Bureau reviewed the terms of reference for a Task Force on Waste Statistics prepared by the Netherlands and UNECE, and raised the following issues:

- The Bureau re-emphasized the importance of developing an internationally agreed conceptual framework for waste statistics building upon the existing work of Eurostat, UNSD and OECD;
- Circular economy and waste management are not explicitly mentioned in the terms of reference but are important from policy viewpoint and should be considered in the work of the Task Force.

Conclusion:

20. The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Task Force on Waste Statistics. The Task Force will prepare a work plan for the October 2017 meeting of the Bureau.

**E. Extreme events and disasters - further work**

(*ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/8 by the Task Force*)

21. The Bureau discussed the progress of work of the Task Force on the measurement of extreme events and disasters, and considered the need to extend the Task Force's mandate.

22. A representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) informed about the recent developments in the monitoring of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and stressed the importance of close cooperation between the disaster risk managers and the statistical community.

23. Measuring extreme events and disasters is a good example where the statistical community can support other stakeholders with its expertise in statistical methods, definitions and classifications. This allows to re-use existing data and to reach out to organizations who are not the usual partners of statistical offices.

Conclusion:

24. The Bureau approved the updated terms of reference of the Task Force on Measuring Extreme Events and Disasters and extended their mandate by two years. The Task Force will prepare a work plan for the October 2017 meeting of the Bureau.

**F. Ageing-related statistics**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/9 by UNECE)*

25. The Bureau reviewed the terms of reference for a Task Force on Measuring Institutional Populations. The proposal to set up the Task Force follows the suggestions for further work identified in the *Recommendations on ageing-related statistics*. The Bureau raised the following issues:

- Work in this area is very important and needs to align with existing recommendations, in particular with those for population and housing censuses.
- The name of the Task Force should reflect its focus on old-age people living in institutions.
- The Task Force could reach out to more countries with register-based statistical systems to ensure that the related issues are covered.
- The Task Force members may represent other government agencies than the statistical office. For instance, the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection represents Austria in the Task Force.
- Canada expressed willingness to participate in the Task Force.

Conclusion:

26. The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Task Force on Measuring Old-Age Population in Institutions. The Secretariat will circulate the terms of reference to CES countries to solicit membership in the Task Force.

**G. Measuring poverty and inequality**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/10 by UNECE)*

27. The Bureau reviewed the terms of reference for a Steering Group on Measuring Poverty and Inequality, and raised the following issues:

- Establishment of a steering group is important for leading the CES work on measuring poverty and inequality, strengthening the preparation of expert meetings in this area, and ensuring cooperation in the region.
- The involvement of international organizations in the Steering Group is very welcome.
- The measurement of both poverty and inequality is important in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

Conclusion:

28. The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Steering Group on Measuring Poverty and Inequality, and asked the Steering Group to report to the Bureau on progress made.

**H. Measuring intra-household power and decision-making**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/11 and 11/Add.1 by the Steering Group on Gender Statistics)*

29. The Bureau discussed the measurement of gendered household power and decision-making, and reviewed the terms of reference for a dedicated Task Force based on a proposal by the Steering Group on Gender Statistics. The Bureau raised the following issues:

- The topic is important, particularly because most income, inequality and material well-being metrics assume intra-household equality. This is likely to lead to underestimation of poverty and inequality levels. Several countries have gender equality barometers or similar devices but these rarely address what is happening inside the household.
- In addition to measuring who makes decisions within the household and the subjective indicators, the work should look at the final outcomes, such as income, expenditure and labour market participation.
- Eurostat drew attention to the challenges in collecting data on these topics and the low level of success with the EU-SILC ad-hoc module on income pooling and sharing within households.
- The work should take account of the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project led by UNSD and piloted in several countries.
- OECD expressed willingness to participate in this part of the Task Force's work that addresses the final outcome measures.
- Mexico expressed willingness to participate in the Task Force.
- Countries with register based statistical systems should be represented in the Task Force.

Conclusion:

30. The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Task Force on Measuring Intra-Household Power and Decision-Making, and asked the Secretariat to circulate the terms of reference to CES countries to solicit membership in the Task Force.

**I. High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/12 and 12/Add.1 by HLG-MOS)*

31. The Bureau discussed the outcomes of the international collaboration projects overseen by HLG-MOS in 2016 and planned activities for 2017. It also reviewed the revised terms of reference for HLG-MOS, and the governance structure for activities under HLG-MOS. The Bureau raised the following issues:

- The work of HLG-MOS is interesting and impressive in terms of substance, and well presented in the report;
- The new Blue-skies Thinking Network was supported as an incubator for new ideas;
- The work of HLG-MOS should be publicised more, among the statistical community as well as outside official statistics. The CES Bureau members and Heads of statistical offices can play an active role in that;
- The demand for capacity building activities relating to statistical modernisation is increasing from all parts of the world, however the resources for this are very limited. As a result, UNECE capacity building will focus only on CES member countries. Partners will be sought to provide capacity building for other countries.

Conclusion:

32. The Bureau commended the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics on the outcomes achieved in 2016, and approved the plans for 2017.

33. The Bureau endorsed the revised terms of reference for HLG-MOS and the new governance structure for the HLG-MOS activities.

34. The Bureau supported the presentation of the family of models and standards developed under HLG-MOS for formal endorsement by the CES plenary session in June 2017.

**J. Strategic partnerships**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/13 by Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Eurostat and UNECE)*

35. The Bureau discussed the concept note on strategic partnerships prepared by Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Eurostat and UNECE, and raised the following points:

- Setting up partnerships is an important strategic issue for NSOs. There is a need for a forum to discuss the related topics, such as the governance, leadership and associated risks of partnerships; data use, re-use, access and ownership, etc.;
- Different types of partnerships require different solutions. Exchanging practical experience on how to establish successful partnerships would help to move forward in this area. A seminar on this topic would be very useful;
- Partnerships are closely linked with the issue of trust. NSO's reputation as a public agency depends also on the general trust in the government. Depending on the situation, different approaches can be used. For example, the trusted partner for keeping the data can be NSO, 3<sup>rd</sup> party, research agency, etc.
- Eurostat is ready to share its experience in how to enable establishing partnerships;
- Some useful examples can be found on the UNECE wiki on best practices on the value of official statistics within the section on "Going further with strategic partners".

Conclusion:

36. The Bureau supported the proposal for further work, and asked the small group co-led by Canada and UK (Mexico, the Netherlands, Eurostat and UNECE) to develop a work plan with concrete actions, responsibilities, timeline and expected outcomes for the October 2017 meeting of the Bureau.

37. Countries are encouraged to make use of the UNECE wiki "Value of official statistics – best practices"<sup>1</sup> and to add good examples of partnerships to the wiki.

**K. Joint work by GGIM-Europe and CES**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/14 by UNECE)*

38. The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the developments concerning further work on geospatial information management, and ongoing discussions with UN-GGIM: Europe about increased collaboration. A joint workshop on integrating statistical and geospatial standards will be held in Sweden in November 2017.

Conclusion:

39. The Bureau supported this work, and noted the importance of integrating statistical and geospatial data and standards. The Bureau supported the Secretariat's proposals to develop a concrete plan detailing UNECE involvement in geospatial activities following the expected decision at the UNECE Commission Session in April 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/VALUE/5.+Going+further+with+strategic+partners>



#### **IV. PREPARATION FOR THE 2017 CES PLENARY SESSION**

##### **A. Organization of the 2017 CES seminar on measuring poverty**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/15 by Israel, Mexico and UNECE)*

40. The Bureau discussed the organization of the 2017 CES seminar on measuring poverty based on an updated outline prepared by the seminar organizers, Israel, Mexico and UNECE.

##### Conclusion:

41. The seminar organizers will proceed with preparations according to the presented outline. The seminar will take place on Monday, 19 June 2017, starting at 09:50.

##### **B. Organization of the 2017 CES seminar on the next generation of statisticians and data scientists**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/16 by Finland and Eurostat)*

42. The Bureau discussed the organization of the 2017 CES seminar on the next generation of statisticians and data scientists based on an updated outline prepared by the seminar organizers, Finland and Eurostat. The Bureau raised the following issues:

- The seminar should discuss the skill mix that is needed for future statistical offices to make the most of data revolution, including communication and use of social media, methodologies, and data and computer science.
- The seminar should consider where the statistical community can make collective efforts to ensure that their (future) staff can obtain the necessary skills. These questions include: How does the university education in a country contribute to the statistical capacity needs and how to cooperate with universities? What can countries do jointly to build up the necessary skills? How to update the skills of existing staff?
- The seminar organizers could invite a university that educates data scientists or provides Master studies in official statistics to make a presentation, such as the L'École nationale de la statistique et de l'analyse de l'information (ENSAI) from France.
- Data science is currently quite popular among students. It would be important to know what their study programme includes and what they can bring to the statistical work.
- The seminar will make use of social media to ensure active participation in the discussions.

##### Conclusion:

43. Finland and Eurostat will proceed with the preparations of the seminar taking into account the recommendations by the Bureau. The seminar will take place on Tuesday, 20 June 2017, starting at 09:30.

##### **C. Draft agenda and timetable for the 2017 CES plenary session**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/17 by UNECE)*

##### Conclusion:

44. The Bureau approved the provisional agenda and timetable for the 2017 CES plenary session, and noted that the agenda now focuses on fewer topics providing more time for discussion.

**D. Road Map on statistics for SDGs**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/18 by the Steering Group)*

45. The Bureau reviewed the draft *Road Map on statistics for SDGs*, prepared by the Steering Group co-chaired by Switzerland and the United States, and made the following comments:

- The Bureau commended the Steering Group for its good work and for the improvements in the text since the previous Bureau meeting in October 2016;
- It is important to emphasise the leading role of the national statistical offices in coordinating the production of SDG indicators in countries. The new Section in the Road Map on this topic is welcome;
- The reporting of global SDG indicators, related data flows and the role of custodian agencies are still under discussion. The lack of clarity at the global level makes it difficult for countries to set up their system of providing data on SDGs.
- A transparent process is needed particularly when there are differences between data reported at national level and adjusted data provided by international organizations. The issue is much wider than SDGs. The data differences have implications on policy implementation in countries, and the trust in the statistical offices by users, including national policy makers. The Bureau members were encouraged to raise this issue at the UNSC Monday seminar on 6 March;
- It is important to clarify what can be done at the regional level and coordinate as much as possible between UNECE, Eurostat and OECD. The established practice and experience in collection of economic data (National Accounts) where data are shared between the organizations could be used as an example;
- Eurostat and OECD will send some written corrections to the text that concerns their role before the Road Map is distributed for wide consultation.

46. The Secretariat presented the first results of the survey on countries' strategies and plans related to statistics for SDGs. The response rate to the survey has been exceptionally high (60 replies by the end of February) which shows the importance of the topic for countries. The survey results will be taken into account in the preparation of the Expert Meeting on statistics for SDGs on 10-12 April 2017, and will be presented as a background paper to the CES 2017 plenary session in June 2017. The survey will also provide input to the round table on statistics and data that will be organised as part of the UNECE High-level Political Forum on SDGs on 25 April 2017.

Conclusion:

47. The Secretariat will circulate the *Road Map on statistics for SDGs* for electronic consultation among all CES members. The Road Map will also be discussed at the Expert Meeting on 10-12 April in Geneva. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Road Map will be submitted to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement.

**E. Set of Key Climate Change-related Indicators**

*(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/19 and 19/Add.1 by the Task Force)*

48. The Bureau reviewed the draft *Set of Key Climate Change-related Indicators*, prepared by a Task Force on this topic, and appreciated the good work of the Task Force and its Chair (Italy) in this challenging area. The following comments were made:

- Several countries have indicated their interest in pilot testing the indicator set. The pilot testing should start as soon as possible.
- OECD noted relevant areas from their work that could be also mentioned in the report, in particular developing a methodology for air and greenhouse gas emission accounts based on energy statistics, and using geospatial data for estimating changes in land cover.

Conclusion:

49. The Secretariat will circulate the report on a *Set of Key Climate Change-related Indicators* using the *System of Environmental-economic Accounting* for electronic consultation among all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the report will be submitted to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement.

50. The Bureau supported the proposals for follow-up work in the report. The Secretariat will approach volunteer countries inviting them to launch the pilot testing of the indicator set. The Expert Forum on Climate Change-related Statistics will discuss the first results of pilot testing in autumn 2017.

**F. Recommendations on the Value of Official Statistics**

(ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/20 by the Task Force)

51. The Bureau reviewed the draft *Recommendations on Promoting, Measuring and Communicating the Value of Official Statistics* and the related measurement framework, prepared by the Task Force chaired by the United Kingdom, and made the following comments:

- The recommendations highlight issues that are crucial for maintaining and developing the role of official statistics and increasing their relevance, such as building on the uniqueness and high quality of official statistics, integrating statistics to meet the user needs better, and investing in innovation and strategic partnerships.
- The Task Force's work has high practical and strategic value to countries. NSOs should actively implement the Recommendations through national actions. All Bureau members should promote the outcomes of the work.
- OECD will organize a session on the value and costs of official statistics at the ISI 2017.
- The report provides the first guidance on monetization of the value of official statistics and presents concrete measurement approaches that can be applied in practice. Possible pathfinder countries for pilot testing of the measurement approaches include Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Conclusion:

52. The Secretariat will circulate the *Recommendations on Promoting, Measuring and Communicating the Value of Official Statistics* for electronic consultation among all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Recommendations will be submitted to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement.

53. The Task Force and the Secretariat will update the work plan for the suggested follow-up work based on the Bureau discussion.

**G. Guide on Poverty Measurement**  
(*ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/21 by the Task Force*)

54. The Bureau reviewed the draft *Guide on Poverty Measurement*, prepared by a dedicated Task Force, and made the following comments:

- The *Guide on Poverty Measurement* is timely and important. The efforts of the Task Force are appreciated.
- The *Guide* would have to clarify how it complements existing guidance material, such as the Rio Group *Compendium of best practices in poverty measurement* and the Canberra Group *Handbook on household income statistics*.
- More detailed recommendations on the choice of measurement approaches would help improve comparability between countries while recognising the need to take into account national policies and data limitations.
- The methods to measure multidimensional poverty require further development before clear-cut recommendations could be provided. Statistical offices need more guidance on the selection of poverty dimensions, thresholds and other related issues, which could be taken up as follow-up work.
- Austria and OECD will send more detailed comments in writing. The Guide still requires some editing.

Conclusion:

55. The Task Force will update the Guide to take into account the Bureau's comments. The Secretariat will then circulate the *Guide on Poverty Measurement* for electronic consultation among all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Guide will be submitted to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement.

**H. Guide on Valuing Unpaid Household Service Work**  
(*ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/22 by the Task Force*)

56. The Bureau reviewed the draft *Guide on Valuing Unpaid Household Service Work*, prepared by a dedicated Task Force chaired by the United Kingdom. The Bureau appreciated the work of the Task Force.

57. The Bureau noted that it would be important to develop guidance on valuing volunteer work and economic returns of volunteering, taking into account the changed definition of work by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. This topic was outside of the *Guide's* scope and could be taken up in future.

Conclusion:

58. The Secretariat will circulate the *Guide on Valuing Unpaid Household Service Work* for electronic consultation among all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Guide will be submitted to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement. The Secretariat will also present the Guide at the Meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts (May 2018).

**I. Good practices in the communication of population projections**  
(*ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/23 and 23/Add.1 by the Task Force*)

59. The Bureau reviewed the draft *Recommendations on Communicating Population Projections*, prepared by the Task Force chaired by Canada, as well as the proposal for a database of metadata about projections to be maintained on a UNECE wiki. The Bureau strongly supported the Recommendations and made the following comments:

- The recommendations regarding communication of uncertainty of population projections are especially important and useful.
- Different approaches to the communication of uncertainty are necessary depending on whether scenario-based or probabilistic projection methods are used.

Conclusion:

60. The Secretariat will circulate the *Recommendations on Communicating Population Projections* for electronic consultation among all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Recommendations will be submitted to the 2017 CES plenary session for endorsement.

61. The Bureau approved the proposal for the Secretariat to start compiling the database of population projections metadata with a proposed update schedule of every three years.

**V. UNECE PROGRAMME OF WORK DOCUMENTS**  
(*ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/24 and ../25 by UNECE*)

Conclusion:

62. The Bureau adopted the Programme of Work for 2018-2019 and the Publication Programme (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/25) for the biennium. The Bureau emphasized the importance of publishing the methodological materials, guidelines and recommendations developed under CES both in print and in electronic format.

63. The Bureau adopted the report on the implementation of the UNECE Statistical Programme 2016 (ECE/CES/BUR/2017/FEB/24), and thanked the UNECE Secretariat, the active member countries and partners for the effective work and the good results achieved.

**VI. OUTCOMES OF THE WORLD DATA FORUM**

64. The Bureau discussed the outcomes and implications of the World Data Forum, hosted by Statistics South Africa from 15 to 18 January 2017 in Cape Town, with support from UNSD. The Bureau raised the following issues:

- It is important to take stock of the outcomes of the Forum to move forward;
- The possibility to see the viewpoint of private sector, discuss potential partnerships and exchange experience was very useful;
- National statistical offices need to speed up efforts on innovation and modernisation to remain competitive and relevant;
- Official statistics has to rethink its role and how to use its competitive advantages (impartiality, professionalism, quality, etc.). It is very important how this is all communicated, especially to those people who make decisions about the budget.

- Official statistics should identify what is its core mandate and what parts of the work could be outsourced or given to partners. The statistical offices can not have a monopoly over all data, they should rather focus on quality assurance and methodological advice.

## **VII. DATES AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

65. The Bureau confirmed the dates and venues for its forthcoming meetings as follows:

- 10-11 October 2017 (Yerevan, Armenia)
- 13-14 February 2018 (possibly Washington D.C, to be confirmed)
- 16-17 October 2018 (venue to be decided)

66. The 65<sup>th</sup> CES plenary session will take place on 19-21 (a.m.) June 2017 in Geneva, followed by the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy on 21 (p.m.)-22 June.

67. The 66<sup>th</sup> CES plenary session will take place during the week of 18-22 June 2018 in Geneva, back-to-back with the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy. From the year 2019 on, the venue of the plenary session will alternate again between Paris and Geneva.

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

68. The Bureau discussed the draft resolution on the work of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. After adoption by UNSC in March 2017, the resolution is planned to be adopted by ECOSOC. The text was updated to take into account comments by countries. The Secretariat emphasised the need to reflect in the Resolution the role of the Regional Commissions to implement statistics for SDGs at the regional level. The discussions are ongoing in both statistical and political communities and the procedure for the adoption of the Resolution is being clarified.

69. The attention of the Bureau was drawn to the UNSC discussion on regional statistical development based on a UNECE report (E/CN.3/2017/6, under UNSC agenda item 3(c)). The paper presents emerging work that may be of interest to the global statistical community.

70. The Bureau decided that all finalized papers of the CES Bureau meeting will be made available on the public web page: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43849>

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