CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

| For information |

Meeting of the 2017/2018 Bureau
Yerevan (Armenia), 10-11 October 2017

Item IV (a) of the Provisional Agenda

EVALUATION OF THE JUNE 2017 CES PLENARY SESSION

Prepared by the Secretariat

> *The document presents the results of the evaluation questionnaires of the 2017 CES plenary session. The results can provide ideas for improving the CES plenary sessions.*

I.   INTRODUCTION

1.   The present report summarizes the responses to the evaluation questionnaire of the 65th CES plenary session. As a rule, UNECE invites all participants of CES meetings to fill in an evaluation questionnaire at the end of each meeting. The purpose of the CES evaluation questionnaire is to:
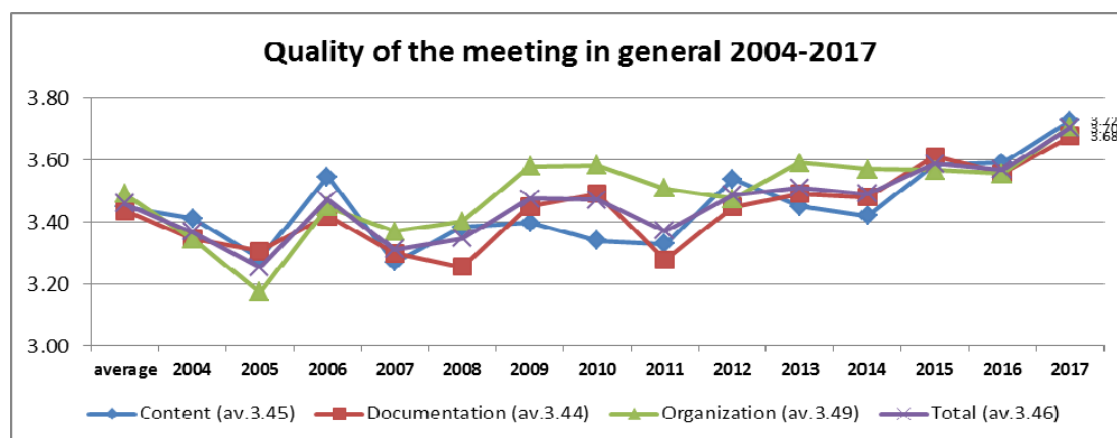*   Monitor the satisfaction of participants with the CES plenary session.
*   Gather proposals for improvement, in particular for the CES seminars.

2.   The evaluation was conducted in the form of an online questionnaire. The Secretariat received 70 replies, which constitutes a response rate of 46% (152 registered participants took part in the Conference in June 2017). This is the second highest response rate since 2004.

II.   GENERAL SUMMARY OF REPLIES

3.   **The 2017 CES plenary session received the highest rating so far** (since 2004). The organization, contents and the documentation of the meeting were evaluated very good or good by 96 to 97% of the respondents – maintaining the upward trend from previous years (see Figure 1). A more detailed summary of the responses is provided in the Annex.

Figure 1. Evaluation of the quality of the CES plenary session in 2004 - 2017

Note: 4 – very good; 3 – good; 2 – fairly good; 1 - unsatisfactory

III.   COMMENTS BY PARTICIPANTS

4.   The evaluation questionnaire includes a space for written comments and suggestions for improvement. The open responses are provided in the Annex, as they may provide ideas for organizing the 2018 CES plenary session.
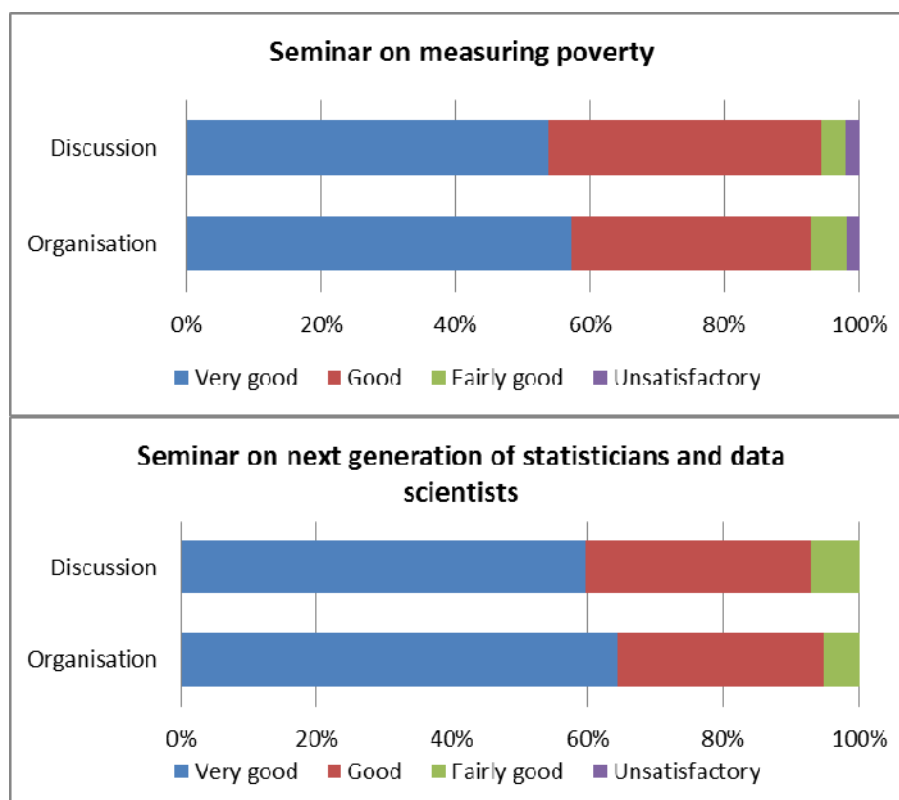
5.   Several respondents highlighted that they liked the use of Twitter to make the seminar more interactive. They also recommend having more time for discussions as they see the exchange of experiences as an important component of the Conference.

6.   Many participants considered the "Seminar on next generation of statisticians and data scientists" as most helpful part of the CES plenary session. Second was the "Seminar on measuring poverty". The substantive discussions during the seminars are highly regarded.

ANNEX .
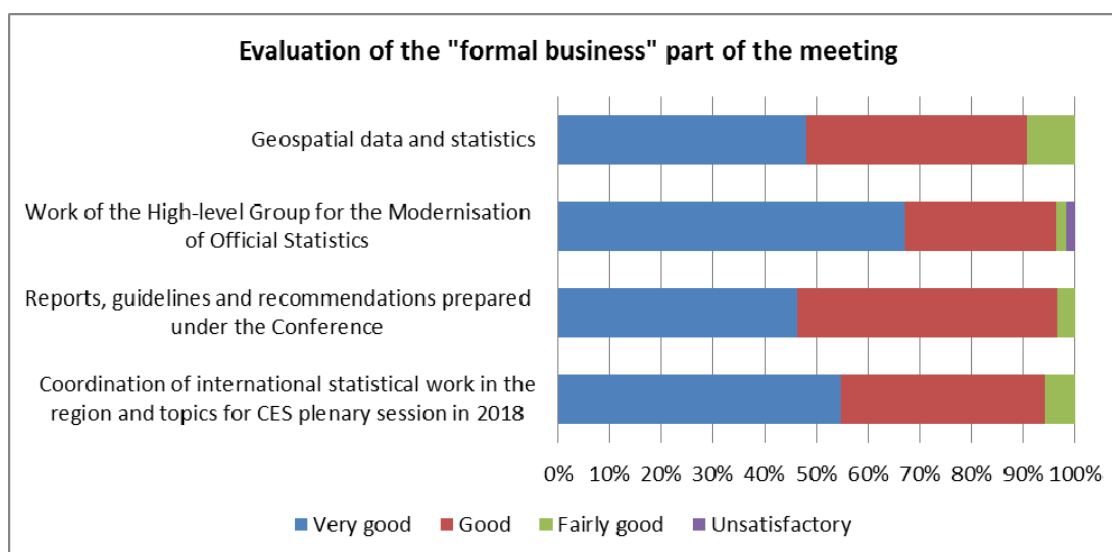**SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO THE EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. How do you evaluate the quality of the meeting in general?				
	Very good	Good	Fairly good	Unsatisfactory
Content	53 (77%)	14 (20%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)
Documentation	48 (71%)	18 (26%)	2 (3%)	0
Organisation	51 (75%)	14 (21%)	3 (4%)	0

2. Are you satisfied with the organization of the seminars?				
	Very good	Good	Fairly good	Unsatisfactory
Measuring poverty				
- Organisation	32 (57%)	20 (36%)	3 (5%)	1 (2%)
- Discussion	29 (54%)	22 (41%)	2 (4%)	1 (2%)
Next generation of statisticians and data scientists				
- Organisation	38 (64%)	18 (31%)	3 (5%)	0
- Discussion	34 (60%)	19 (33%)	4 (7%)	0

3. How do you evaluate the discussion under the "formal business" part of the meeting?				
	Very good	Good	Fairly good	Unsatisfactory
Geospatial data and statistics	26 (48%)	23 (43%)	5 (9%)	0
Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics	37 (67%)	16 (29%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)
Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the Conference	26 (46%)	28 (50%)	2 (4%)	0
Coordination of international statistical work in the region, UNECE Statistics Programme of work and selection of topics for CES plenary session in 2018	29 (55%)	21 (40%)	3 (6%)	0

Evaluation of the "formal business" part of the meeting

5.   Suggestions for improvement and other comments:

General comments:
- CES was very well organized, efficient and most appreciated.
- The conference was very interesting. It was good to see how the delegates are committed to working together for taking the best decisions and actions.
- The seminars are always excellent and informative and should keep up this tradition.
- All keynote speakers provided a balanced overview of the issues to be considered.
- A general observation is that we need to reduce the number of presentations or shorten the presentations to create a little more time for discussion
- Event is very formal. No real discussions and not very informative.
- Use ICT (such as Twitter) to make it more dynamic and facilitate the discussion.

Seminar on measuring poverty:
- The session on poverty was very interesting to understand the challenges in measuring poverty and obtaining good analyses. These challenges can be also extended to other kind of analyses.
- Sensitive topic which is highly important for the statistical community.
- An interesting and rich discussion.

- The two topics (methodology and comparability) are linked; therefore the arguments were repeated in the two sessions
- Not much time for an interactive discussion
- The Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP) was not involved in the seminar as many researchers from across the globe are involved.
- To expedite the translation of the full version of the *Guide on Poverty Measurement* and send it to countries for use.

Seminar on next generation of statisticians and data scientists:
- Broad ranging discussion and relevant to all NSOs [2]
- Very important topic. Would be interesting to have concrete recommendations on what kind of knowledge and skills are needed from statisticians. This could be shared with universities and academic circles in the country.
- Chance to discuss the skills and capabilities needed to address the challenges arising from the new data-driven world where statistics should be better integrated to support policy and decision making.
- This was a diverse discussion that was assisted by the panel discussion format.
- The seminar was a bit long and the links between the topics could not avoid the redundancies between sessions. The discussions were interesting.
- Would have liked more in-depth presentations.
- Too little time for discussion
- Statisticians have similar problems related to work with the next generation of statisticians; however, no relevant practical suggestions, except standard ones used by NSOs, were made.

Work of HLG-MOS
- According to great work done by UNECE and HLG-MOS it was clear to my institution that we are on the good way of developmet. Discussions were encouraging and we strongly support work in this area.
- [was most useful] because it was very relevant to the activities that are going on in our office
- New challenges call for new approach and organization
- Strategic subject, and aligned with the seminar on next generation of statisticians

Documentation and presentations:
- Some documents were too late.
- Some documents are not translated into Russian.
- Secretariat should prepare and distribute final versions in Russian of all guidelines discussed at the plenary session.
- Non-logical numbering of documents (document numbers do not correspond to agenda items).

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