

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting of the 2018/2019 Bureau

Geneva (Switzerland), 14-15 October 2018

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will start at 9:30 on Sunday, 14 October and is planned to finish around 17:00 on Monday, 15 October 2018. The meeting will take place at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

A small social event and the traditional subscription dinner will be organised on Sunday, 14 October 2018 afternoon/evening.

The meeting will be held in English only. The documents for the meeting will be uploaded on the following website: <https://statswiki.unece.org/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 in depth selected statistical areas. 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) Statistics and data on cities – for discussion and recommendations

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/2 by the Netherlands and Eurostat)

2. The in-depth review of statistics and data on cities will be based on a paper by the Netherlands and Eurostat, with input from Austria, Canada, Finland, OECD and UNECE. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

(b) Use of satellite image data in official statistics – for discussion and recommendations

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/3 by Canada and Mexico)

3. The in-depth review of use of satellite image data in official statistics will be based on a paper by Canada and Mexico with input from Austria and Eurostat. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

(c) Role of national statistical systems in the new data ecosystem – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/4 by UNECE and Finland)

4. The Bureau launched the discussion to review defining and/or redefining national statistical systems in February 2018 based on a note by the Secretariat. The Bureau decided to focus the review on the role of national statistical systems in the new data ecosystem. The Bureau also decided to further discuss the issue in October 2018 to take into account the outcomes of the April 2018 high-level seminar on strategic partnerships, the CES June 2018 seminar ‘Measuring what matters’ and the work of OECD.

III. Preparation of the CES 2019 plenary session

(a) Organization of the 2019 CES seminar on “New data sources – accessibility and use” – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/5 by Switzerland and United States)

5. The CES plenary session selected this topic for one of the 2019 CES seminars. The Bureau is invited to discuss the organization of the seminar based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizers, Switzerland and United States, in collaboration with Eurostat, OECD and UNSD.

(b) Organization of the 2019 CES seminar on “Emerging role of NSOs as offices for statistics and data” – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/6 by Canada, New Zealand and United Kingdom)

6. The CES plenary session selected this topic for one of the 2019 CES seminars. The Bureau is invited to discuss the organization of the seminar based on an outline prepared by the seminar organizers, Canada, New Zealand and United Kingdom, in collaboration with UNSD.

(c) Draft agenda and timetable for the 2019 CES plenary session – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/7 by UNECE)

7. The Bureau is invited to discuss the provisional agenda of the CES plenary session in 2019 based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

IV. UNECE Statistical Programme

8. Under this agenda item, the draft programme of work for the UNECE Statistical Division in 2019 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.

9. The work of 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 <http://www.unece.org/statistics/networks-of-experts.html>.

(a) Strategic partnerships (further work) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/8 by Canada and United Kingdom)

10. The High-level Seminar on Strategic Partnerships in Official Statistics took place in Geneva on 11-12 April 2018. As an outcome of the seminar, the organising committee (co-led by Canada and United Kingdom, comprising Mexico, the Netherlands, Eurostat, Paris21 and UNECE) will prepare a paper identifying the main ideas and possible future activities. This would include principles and a framework for creating strategic partnerships, a mechanism to share good practices, a maturity model, and a description of the core assets that can make statistical organisations attractive to partners.

11. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the paper prepared by the organising committee, and decide on future activities in this area.

(b) Climate change-related statistics (renewal of ToR) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/9 by the Steering Group)

12. The Steering Group on climate change-related statistics was set up in October 2014. The Steering Group has promoted the implementation of the *CES Recommendations on climate change statistics* that the Conference endorsed in 2014. This included preparing a *CES road map for developing climate change related statistics* and organizing annual Expert Fora for producers and users of climate change related statistics. The Steering Group oversees two task forces, namely on the set of climate change related statistics and indicators, and on measuring extreme events and disasters. The work has been considered twice by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) and received high praise, including from many countries outside the region.

13. The work continues to ensure implementation of the Recommendations in an increasing number of countries, and organizing the Expert Fora on climate change related statistics bringing together countries and different stakeholders involved in climate change. The Bureau is invited to extend the terms of reference for the Steering Group on climate change-related statistics.

(c) Measuring extreme events and disasters (progress report and updated work plan) – for decision
(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/10 by the Task Force)

14. In October 2017, the Bureau considered the work plan of the Task Force and asked the group to provide an updated work plan that better reflects the work ahead in finalising the *Recommendations on measuring extreme events and disasters*. The Recommendations give guidance to national statistical offices on their role and involvement in measuring extreme events and disasters. The Recommendations are planned to be submitted for endorsement to the CES plenary session in June 2019.

15. The Bureau will be invited to approve the updated work plan of the Task Force on measuring extreme events and disasters.

(d) Statistics for SDGs: Task Force on National Reporting Platforms; 2nd pilot of data flows – for discussion and recommendations

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/11 by the Task Force and UNECE)

16. In October 2016 the Bureau set up a Task Force on reporting SDG indicators using national reporting platforms (NRPs). In October 2017, The Bureau considered the draft *Guidelines on national mechanisms for providing data on SDG indicators and the Description of National Reporting Platforms*, and made a number of proposals. The Task Force finalised the documents taking into account the discussion by the Bureau (available at: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/SFSDG/Task+Force+on+National+Reporting+Platforms>). The Task Force is currently preparing practical guidance for developing NRPs, including on how to achieve better interoperability across platforms.

17. A first pilot of data flows from countries to custodian agencies responsible for selected SDG indicators was carried out in 2017. It provided practical suggestions for improving the data flows which were reflected in the IAEG-SDGs guidelines that UNSC considered in March 2018. A second pilot of data flows took place over the summer 2018, this time focusing on the challenges of national statistical offices in validating data produced by entities outside of the national statistical system. The aim of the second pilot is to propose simplified procedures to improve efficiency and transparency in providing global statistics for SDGs for both countries and agencies. As was the case with the first pilot, the results are intended to inform guidance on SDG data flows under deliberation by IAEG-SDGs and CCSA, being prepared at the request of UNSC.

18. The Bureau will be informed about the results of the ongoing work, and will be invited to provide recommendations on further steps.

(e) Modernising statistical legislation (proposal for follow-up work) – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/12 by UNECE)

19. The CES 2018 plenary session endorsed the *Guidance on modernising statistical legislation*, prepared by a Task Force co-chaired by Latvia and UK. The Guidance will be published by the end of 2018.

20. The Conference supported the proposals for further work including reviewing the Guidance in 5 years as proposed by the Task Force, and asked the CES Bureau to decide on the next steps. The Bureau is invited to consider the follow-up to the Guidance based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

(f) Quality of employment (renewal of ToR) – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/13 and 13/Add.1 by the Steering Group)

21. The Steering Group on measuring quality of employment was set up in October 2015. The Group has promoted the *Handbook on Measuring Quality of Employment, A Statistical Framework* that CES endorsed in 2015, and has organized biennial expert group meetings to follow up on the research agenda and the implementation of the statistical framework.

22. The secretariat will present a progress report and a proposal for further work to support practical follow-up on the implementation of the *Handbook*. The Bureau is invited to review and approve updated terms of reference and a new work plan for the Steering Group on measuring quality of employment.

(g) UNECE Statistics Programme of Work documents – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/14 and 15)

23. Under this agenda item, the Bureau will be invited to review and approve the planning documents of the Statistics subprogramme prepared in the context of the United Nations secretariat's planning and reporting process. These include:

(a) Statistical Programme for 2019 (ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/14) (based on the outcome of discussions on the items above);

(b) A draft programme of work document for 2020, prepared in a new format in line with the change of the UN budget planning from biannual to annual budgets on a trial basis, beginning in 2020 (ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/15).

V. MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH POLICYMAKERS – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/16 by Austria)

24. At its short meeting on 18 June 2018, the Bureau decided to launch discussion on engagement with policy makers. This includes issues, such as a shift towards populism, how to guarantee the stability of national statistical system in the conditions of political instability, and how to interact with policymakers who follow different principles and values than NSOs.

VI. PRINCIPLES OF ROTATION OF THE MEMBERS OF IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB IN UNECE REGION – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/17 by UNECE)

25. The Bureau approved a document on principles for rotation of the members from the UNECE region in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the High-level group on partnership, cooperation and capacity building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB) in February 2018. The CES plenary session discussed the document in June 2018. The Conference agreed that transparent principles for rotation are needed, and emphasised the importance of having a good balance between keeping the continuity of the work and giving an opportunity for new countries to be involved. The tasks of the two groups are different and the rotation principles may also differ. The Conference asked the Secretariat to update the principles to take into account the discussion at the CES 2018 plenary session.

26. The Bureau is invited to review the updated principles of rotation of IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB members from UNECE region.

VII. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2018 CES PLENARY SESSION

(a) Evaluation of the 66th plenary session – *for information*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/18 by UNECE)

27. The results of the evaluation questionnaires of the 2018 CES plenary session will be presented for information.

(b) Follow-up to the CES 2018 seminar on “Measuring what matters – broadening official statistics” – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/19 by Poland and UNECE)

28. The CES 2018 seminar on measuring what matters concluded with a list of possible actions on the way forward in this area. The Bureau is invited to discuss the possible further work in this area based on a proposal by the Seminar Organiser, Poland and UNECE.

(c) Follow-up to the CES 2018 seminar on “Getting the message across: strategic reflections on modernizing statistical communication” – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/20 by Albania and UNECE)

29. The CES 2018 seminar on getting the message across concluded with a list of possible actions on the way forward in modernizing statistical communication. The Bureau is invited to discuss the possible further work in this area based on a proposal by the Seminar Organiser, Albania and UNECE.

VIII. CES GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENDORSEMENT IN 2019

(a) Leading, composite and sentiment indicators – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2018/OCT/21 by the Task Force)

30. In February 2016, the Bureau set up a Task Force on leading, composite and sentiment indicators to develop recommendations of good practices for national statistical offices for producing these indicators. The interim Guidelines were circulated for electronic consultation in April/May 2018 and presented to the Conference in June 2018. The Guidelines have been updated to reflect the feedback from the electronic consultation and the CES 2018 plenary session.

31. The Bureau will be invited to comment on the updated draft of the Guidelines and decide whether they can be circulated for final electronic consultation among all CES members with a view to be presented to the 2019 CES plenary session for endorsement.

IX. DATES AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS – *for decision*

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

33. At its February 2018 meeting, the Bureau decided on its next meetings as follows:

- 28 February - 1 March 2019 (Washington D.C., back-to-back with the UN Statistical Commission)
- 16-17 October 2019 (venue to be confirmed)

34. The 67th CES plenary session will take place on 26-28 (a.m.) June 2019 in Paris, back-to-back with the meeting of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (24-25 June 2019).

X. OTHER BUSINESS

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