

Seminar on poverty measurement
Geneva, 5-6 May 2015

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Seminar will be held in room VIII at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 5-6 May 2015.
It will start at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 5 May 2015
and finish on Wednesday, 6 May by 5.30 p.m.

I. Agenda of the Seminar

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and election of the Chair
2. Sustainable Development Goals and poverty measurement
3. Practices in the UNECE region
4. Monetary poverty
 - a) Country cases
 - b) Comparability
5. Multidimensional poverty
 - a) Country cases
 - b) Multidimensional poverty index
6. Subjective poverty
7. Population groups
8. Discussion on future work
9. Adoption of the report
10. Closing of the Seminar

II. Annotations

The Seminar is organised by UNECE. It is included in the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2015, which is approved by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and the UNECE Executive Committee. Seminar documents are available on the UNECE website at the following location: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=37879#/>.

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and election of the Chair

The meeting is expected to adopt its agenda and elect its Chair.

2. Sustainable Development Goals and poverty measurement

The recent discussions on the post-2015 development agenda have further strengthened the importance of measuring poverty, inequality and vulnerability. The United Nations General Assembly's Open Working Group proposed 'End poverty in all its forms everywhere' as the first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). As the other goals, it needs to be monitored with indicators that matter nationally and are comparable internationally. Under this agenda item, an overview is provided on the process of defining the targets and monitoring indicators for SDGs.

3. Practices in the UNECE region

Under this agenda item, the UNECE Task Force on Poverty Measurement will share the results of its work on an inventory of methods used in the UNECE region, obtained through a questionnaire to national statistical offices.

4. Monetary poverty

This session discusses the methodological issues in producing estimates and establishing poverty lines based on income or consumption. The first part of the session (item 4a) will discuss country cases and national experiences in dealing with poverty assessment and related methodological issues.

The second part of the session (item 4b) will address comparability issues in estimating poverty. It will provide an assessment of poverty and inequality trends in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and links them to discourses regarding vulnerability exclusion, and sustainability. It will further discuss methods for measuring absolute poverty in different regions in the world.

5. Multidimensional poverty

In addition to the income and consumption, a household may suffer from a range of other deprivations, and the multidimensional character of poverty is now broadly recognised. Social inclusion, nutrition, employment, empowerment and personal security, and pension contributions are other relevant aspects. The session will start with country cases on measuring multidimensional poverty and consider the broader issue of measuring inequality (item 5a). The session will further present the experiences with multidimensional poverty indexes (item 5b).

6. Subjective poverty

The subjective poverty examines poverty as an individual feeling and not as an objective status. This leads to an operational definition of subjective poverty as being below a certain degree of satisfaction. The session analyses income poverty, living conditions poverty and poverty in terms of the lack of budget balance and their relation to subjective well-being. It discusses the determinants of subjective poverty and approaches to its measurement.

7. Population groups

Minority or vulnerable groups that might be at risk may not be captured by the traditional surveys or create indicators. The session looks at the case of Roma as representing a minority group and examines special situations, such as evaluating the level of child poverty.

8. Discussion on future work

The Seminar will discuss the possible topics and format of future methodological work and exchange of experience in poverty measurement.

9. Adoption of the report

A short report outlining the conclusions and decisions taken at the Seminar will be presented for adoption before the meeting adjourns.

10. Closing of the Seminar
