

**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Seminar on poverty measurement  
(Geneva, 12-13 July 2016)

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

The Seminar will be held in room VIII at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 12-13 July 2016.

It will start at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 12 July 2016  
and finish on Wednesday, 13 July by 5.30 p.m.

**I. Agenda of the Seminar**

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda
2. Guide on Poverty Measurement
3. Measurement challenges in consumption and income poverty
4. Country cases in poverty measurement
5. Comparability issues in measuring multidimensional poverty
6. Linkages between poverty, inequality and vulnerability
7. Communicating statistics on poverty and inequality
8. Poverty and inequality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
9. Future work and adoption of the report
10. Closing of the Seminar

**II. Annotations**

1. The Seminar is organised by UNECE. It is included in the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2016, 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=41290#/.](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41290#/)

**1. Opening and adoption of the agenda**

2. The meeting is expected to adopt its agenda.

**2. Guide on Poverty Measurement**

3. Under this agenda item the Chair of the Task Force on Poverty Measurement will report on progress made by the Task Force on Poverty Measurement and its further steps.

### **3. Measurement challenges in consumption and income poverty**

4. This session will review concrete issues that pose challenges to statisticians in providing monetary poverty estimates. Among these is the comparison of poverty estimates using income, consumption and wealth. Income is not sufficient as a sole measure of poverty, particularly if poverty is seen in terms of achieved standards of living. Low household incomes or low levels of consumption do not necessarily imply a low standard of living. A household with a low income may achieve a high standard of living through using its wealth or based on expectations for higher income in the future. These determinants of economic well-being are not typically taken account of in monetary poverty indicators. Furthermore, the session will discuss how to consider cash benefits, social transfers, and rental income in estimating income poverty.

### **4. Country cases in poverty measurement**

5. The session will discuss country cases and national experiences in dealing with poverty assessment and related methodological issues. The case studies will cover source data, national definitions, poverty indicators, various methods used and the resulting poverty estimates. The session will also look at intra-regional differences within countries and the issue of comparability between rural and urban areas.

### **5. Comparability issues in measuring multidimensional poverty**

6. The multidimensional poverty approach to assessing deprivations at the household level can be tailored using country-specific data and indicators to provide a richer picture of poverty at the country level. A national multidimensional poverty index (MPI) can use indicators and weights that are deemed most appropriate for the country whereas the global MPI estimates are constrained by the need for comparability. This session will focus on how to address the comparability issue when constructing multidimensional measures as well as the data requirements for countries wishing to develop measures on multidimensional poverty.

### **6. Linkages between poverty, inequality and vulnerability**

7. Poverty, inequality, and socio-economic vulnerability issues are complex, whereas trends often provide mixed signals, e.g. growing incomes yet higher number of poor, deepening economic crisis yet stable poverty level, etc. Many countries that have reported good progress in poverty reduction show nevertheless large shares of the population that are vulnerable to poverty. In some regions, countries with lower levels of income inequality are likely to have smaller shares of their populations vulnerable to poverty, while in other regions the opposite may hold. This session will discuss definitions and measures to capture in the best way the linkages between poverty, inequality and vulnerability to poverty.

### **7. Communicating statistics on poverty and inequality**

8. Reliable statistics is the corner stone of sound policymaking. High-quality poverty statistics enable policymakers to make choices that lead to economic and social benefits for the poor. Good metadata is a prerequisite to improving international comparability. It facilitates media and other users in understanding and communicating the information correctly. This session will answer questions about how policymakers use poverty statistics and what are the data needs and shortcomings from their point of view. The meeting will discuss how official statistics could improve to respond to the needs of the policymakers.

## **8. Poverty and inequality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

9. On 25 September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Goal 1 “End poverty in all its forms everywhere” and Goal 10 “Reduce inequality within and among countries”. As with the other goals, they need to be monitored with indicators that matter nationally and are comparable internationally. The session will open the floor for exchange of views about the readiness of the national statistical offices to produce these indicators. Equally important will be to examine the indicators’ potential to achieve international comparability while preserving their relevance for national policies.

## **9. Future work and adoption of the report**

10. The meeting is invited to discuss proposals for future international work in poverty statistics and the next UNECE seminar on poverty measurement.

11. 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**

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