

22 December 2015

ENGLISH ONLY

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

**Second meeting of the Task Force on Poverty Measurement  
(Istanbul, 11-12 February 2016)**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**I. TIME AND VENUE**

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is organizing in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with financial support from the United Nations Development Account, the second meeting of the Task Force on Poverty Measurement in Istanbul, Turkey under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). The meeting will be held back-to-back to the UNDP's "Dialogue on Inequalities for countries in Europe and the CIS". The meeting will take place in Istanbul Marriott Hotel Şişli, on 11 February 2016 from 10 am to 6 pm, with a lunch break from 1 to 3 pm; and 12 February 2016 from 9:30am to 4:00 pm.

**II. BACKGROUND**

2. The ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda have further strengthened the importance of measuring multidimensional phenomena of poverty, inequality and vulnerability. On 25 September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted 'End poverty in all its forms everywhere' as the first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). As with the other goals, it needs to be monitored with indicators that matter nationally and are comparable internationally. It is expected that regional reporting mechanisms will also play a significant role in facilitating the reporting at regional level, taking into account regional priorities and ensuring a link between the national and the global level.

3. In January 2014, the Bureau of the CES established the Task Force on Poverty Measurement, following up on the conclusions of the UNECE Seminar "The way forward in poverty measurement" held in Geneva in December 2013. The objective of the Task Force is to develop guidelines and provide recommendations for improving the international comparability and availability of statistics on poverty and the related metadata. The Central Statistical Office of Poland leads the Task Force. Altogether, nine countries and four international organizations participate.

4. During the first meeting of the Task Force on Poverty Measurement held on 7-8 May 2015 in Geneva, the Task Force discussed challenges concerning poverty

measurement. Major concerns included the definition of poverty, metadata, regional and international comparability, excluded groups of populations, and the entanglement between technical definitions and the political factor, among other concerns.

5. The Task Force agreed to produce draft guidelines, currently called “Guide on Poverty Measurement”, organised into three substantive chapters by poverty type, namely: monetary poverty, subjective poverty, and multidimensional poverty, with a following chapter that draws on the recommendations made in individual chapters and a final chapter with issues for the research agenda.

6. The Task Force meeting will be held back-to-back to the UNDP’s “Dialogue on Inequalities”. The UNDP event will feature presentations of recent regional research on inequalities and discussions of concrete policy and programming responses. Discussions will focus on social protection, anticorruption measures, health, natural capital, gender, green economy and middle class’ growth in combating various forms of inequality. The members of the Task Force are invited to participate also in the UNDP’s “Dialogue on Inequalities” and to benefit from the discourse on interdependency of poverty and inequality by attending both events.

### **III. PURPOSE AND MEETING OUTLINE**

7. The main purpose of this meeting is to take stock of the progress made by the Task Force in drafting the Guide. The Task Force will review any remaining gaps and inconsistencies. The discussion will take place in the order of the chapters, as follows:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction** (led by Poland, UNDP, UNECE)
- **Chapter 2: Monetary poverty** (led by United Kingdom)
- **Chapter 3: Subjective poverty** (led by Poland)
- **Chapter 4: Multidimensional poverty** (led by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI))

8. The meeting will decide the next steps (leaders and content) in drafting the remaining two chapters, as follows:

- **Chapter 5: Recommendations for improving comparability, including on presentation**
- **Chapter 6: Challenges for the future**

9. The meeting will close with a discussion of future work and steps towards the organization and finalization of the Guide **by 31 May 2016**.

## IV. DOCUMENTATION AND LANGUAGES

10. All necessary documents for the Task Force will be made available on the wiki<sup>1</sup>. The Task Force members are invited to use the wiki platform for loading their contributions and providing comments. Task Force members should be familiar with the first draft components along with any other additional documents relevant to the meeting. The Task Force meeting and all documents will be in English.

## V. IMPORTANT DEADLINES

11. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- First draft chapter components to be completed **by mid-December 2015** to provide time for Task Force members to review and comment on these drafts.
- Electronic consultation between the Task Force members to take place **in January 2016** to review the first draft components.

12. In preparation for the meeting, the Task Force members should be familiar with all first draft components of the Guide, which should be available on the wiki by the same dates.

## VI. REGISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

13. Participants are requested to register online for the Task Force meeting **by 15 January 2016**. The online registration form is available through this link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=J02xUw>. Should you have any questions, please contact the UNECE secretariat, email: [vania.etropolska@unece.org](mailto:vania.etropolska@unece.org) or tel. +41 22 917 4120.

14. Task Force members wishing to participate also at the UNDP's "Dialogue on Inequalities" (DoI) should fill out the DoI registration form and send it to Ms. Asli Hekimoglu (email: [asli.hekimoglu@undp.org](mailto:asli.hekimoglu@undp.org)), with a copy to Ms. Vania Etropolska (email: [vania.etropolska@unece.org](mailto:vania.etropolska@unece.org)), **by 15 January 2016**.

15. More information on logistics regarding the two meetings will follow up in due course.

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<http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/TFOPM/UNECE+Task+Force+on+Poverty+Measurement%3A+Home>

## VII. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

16. All queries concerning the Second meeting of the Task Force on Poverty Measurement should be addressed to the **UNECE Secretariat**:

Vania Etropolska  
Social and Demographic Statistics Section  
Statistical Division, UNECE  
Room C.406

Tel: +41 22 917 4120

Email: [vania.etropolska@unece.org](mailto:vania.etropolska@unece.org)

17. Any queries concerning the UNDP's "Dialogue on Inequalities" should be addressed to the **UNDP Secretariat**:

Elena Danilova-Cross  
Poverty and Inequality Programme Specialist  
UNDP Regional Hub  
Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS

Tel: +90 850 288 2103

Email: [elena.danilova-cross@undp.org](mailto:elena.danilova-cross@undp.org)