



UNECE

Conference of European Statisticians

3 February 2016

Expert Meeting on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals

10-12 April 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

CONCEPT NOTE

The expert meeting on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals will be held in room IX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 10-12 April 2017. Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian will be provided.

*Meeting documents will be available at the UNECE website:
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45249#/>*

Introduction

The Expert Meeting is organized under the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) work programme following the request by CES to establish a mechanism for sharing country experience on issues related to statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The meeting is organized by the CES Steering Group on statistics for SDGs, co-chaired by Switzerland and United States, and including Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Republic of Moldova, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, Eurostat, OECD and UNECE.

A workshop on statistics for SDGs for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia will be organized on 12 April afternoon – 13 April, back-to-back with the expert meeting.

Objective and target audience

The aim of the meeting is to address strategic issues that countries and organizations are facing when developing statistics for SDGs, and exchange experience, good practices and knowledge in this area. The meeting will give a regional overview of progress and challenges in implementing measurement of SDGs. It will also provide a space for enhancing regional cooperation and a platform for the participation and contributions of the relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations. The outcome of the meeting will feed into the policy discussions at the UNECE Regional Forum on SDGs on 25 April and the ECE Commission Session on 26-27 April 2017. The outcome will also be reported to the CES plenary session in June 2017.

The target audience of the meeting are senior experts in charge of organising the production and communication of SDG indicators, and coordinating the reporting of SDG indicators in countries. The meeting will be open to all UN member countries and international organizations dealing with statistics for SDGs.

The draft *CES Road Map on statistics for SDGs* will be presented. The Road Map is planned to be submitted for endorsement to the CES plenary session in June 2017.

The Expert Meeting will discuss the results of a survey on CES countries' strategies and plans related to statistics for SDGs that was sent to countries in December 2016. The results of the survey will be compiled in January/February 2017 and will provide further input for refinement of the agenda of the Expert Meeting. Building on these findings and the challenges identified, the Expert Meeting will consider regional priorities in capacity building to report official statistics for global SDG indicators.

Provisional Agenda of the Expert Meeting

First day – Monday, 10 April

Session 1: Setting the scene and the CES road map on statistics for SDGs

(approx. 1 ½ hour) – Organizers and Chairs: Switzerland and United States

This session will introduce the topics of the Expert Meeting and the main results of the survey on National Statistical Offices' strategies and plans related to statistics for SDGs.

The draft CES Road Map on statistics for SDGs will be presented with the aim of getting input from countries and organizations.

Session 2: National strategies and plans for measuring SDGs

(approx. 2 ½ hours + coffee break) – Organizer and Chair: the Netherlands

The session will focus on exchange of national experiences in developing, producing and communicating statistics for SDGs. A number of countries will present their strategies, work done so far, future work plans and/or road maps for developing statistics for SDGs.

The role of NSOs in the SDG measurement process will be discussed, including coordinating the production of global indicators at national level, quality assurance and data validation. Experiences with the collection of data for SDGs, both by national statistical offices and from other (national) organizations, and cooperation between national data providers will also be discussed. The session will consider the link with national sustainable development indicator sets and the *CES recommendations for measuring sustainable development*, and address aspects of communicating a large set of SDG indicators.

The role of partnerships in this process will be also considered, including partnerships between NSOs and government agencies responsible for SDGs.

Second day, Tuesday 11 April

Session 3: Reporting on global SDG indicators

(approx. 2 ½ hours + coffee break) – Organizers and Chairs: Poland and United States

Various scenarios for reporting official national statistics, their harmonization by the UN custodian agencies, and transformation into global statistics for global SDG indicators are possible. Promoting a single solution would neither recognize the variation in the organization and strengths of various national statistical offices nor allow for

experimentation and comparison during this time of new opportunities and demands on the global statistical system.

The session will describe several national reporting solutions identified to date. The Task Force on Reporting SDG indicators using National Reporting Platforms will present a summary of technical features of national reporting platforms, as well as general guidelines for countries regarding the advantages and disadvantages of different reporting solutions.

Session 4: Coordination of international organizations' work in the region

(approx. 2 ½ hours + coffee break) – Organizers and Chairs: Germany and OECD

Multiple international organisations conduct statistical work in the UNECE region. There is strong coordination between Eurostat, OECD, CIS-STAT and UNECE to produce synergies and avoid duplication of work. This session will discuss how to further strengthen cooperation in statistics for SDGs for 2030 Agenda between UN agencies, including their regional and country offices. The session will review existing coordination mechanisms, and consider the mechanisms that may be required to ensure efficient coordination of reporting SDG indicators and capacity building.

Third day, Wednesday, 12 April (morning session)

Session 5: The way forward: actions to support countries to meet the SDG measurement challenges

(approx. 2 ½ hours + coffee break) – Organizers and Chairs: Switzerland and United States

The session will build on the outcomes of the previous sessions and the results from a survey of National Statistical Offices' strategies and plans related to statistics for SDGs by discussing how to overcome the challenges in reporting national statistics for SDGs. Specific topics include:

- how to ensure the coordinating role of NSOs in measuring SDGs;
- how to work with data providers outside the official statistical system to produce national statistics with suitable data quality;
- how to prioritise regional needs for capacity building;
- how to communicate SDG indicators and statistics; and
- how to ensure data coherence between national, regional and global levels.

The discussion will also consider areas where identifying additional good practices would be most useful to national statistical offices. The session will conclude with highlighting concrete actions for further work in implementing the *CES Road Map on statistics for SDGs*.

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