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Second Edition of the Road Map on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals

2021 Round of Rotation of Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals indicators and the High-Level Group on Partnership, Cooperation and Capacity Building members from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region

Prepared by the Secretariat

Summary

The document provides information on the 2021 rotation of members of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the High-Level Group on Partnership, Cooperation and Capacity Building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB) from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region.

According to the terms of reference of IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission, their members are nominated through existing regional mechanisms. For the UNECE region, this is the Conference of European Statisticians, and the CES Bureau as the steering body of the Conference. The rotation process is based on the “Principles for rotation of IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB members from the UNECE region” approved by the Bureau in October 2018 (ECE/CES/2019/9).

The groups were set up in 2015, and the members are rotated every two years. The result of the current, third round of rotation is expected to be announced before the end of May, as the new term starts on 1 June 2021.



I. Background

1. 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) were set up by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in March 2015. According to the terms of reference (TOR) for both groups, their members are nominated through existing regional mechanisms. For the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region, this is the Conference of European Statisticians (CES)¹, and the CES Bureau as the steering body of the Conference.
2. However, a number of countries are members of several UN Regional Commissions. Based on the geographic groupings defined in M49, CES is coordinating the membership from North America and all parts of Europe. The membership from Central Asia is coordinated by ESCAP (from UNECE members, this concerns Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). The membership from Western Asia is coordinated by ESCWA even though not all countries falling into this M49 group are members of ESCWA (from UNECE members, this concerns Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, Israel and Turkey). The UNECE Secretariat is in contact with ESCAP and ESCWA concerning rotation from these regions.
3. The CES Bureau approved the *Principles for rotation of IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB members from the UNECE region* in October 2018, and the Conference in June 2019². The Conference 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.
4. The members of the groups were first nominated in 2015 for a period of two years. After that two rounds of rotation have taken place: in 2017 and 2019.
5. This year marks the end of the current mandate for members of IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB, after which a few of them from each region are expected to rotate, as specified in the Terms of Reference of the two groups.

II. Principles and considerations to be taken into account in rotation

6. The rotation is based on the *Principles for rotation of IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB members from the UNECE region* as noted above. From the Principles, the ones below can be highlighted. The full list is available in the document [ECE/CES/2019/9](#).
7. The following rules are based on the TOR of the two groups:
 - The same country is not expected to be in both the IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB.
 - The current and incoming co-chairs are not expected to rotate³. After a co-chair steps down, they are expected to serve for two more years as a member.
 - For IAEG-SDGs, two members from Eastern Europe, North America and Northern, Southern and Western Europe should be rotated⁴.
 - For HLG-PCCB, one member from Eastern Europe, and two members from Europe and North America should be rotated⁵.

¹ [E/CN.3/2017/2](#) (Terms of Reference for IAEG-SDGs), para 2; [E/CN.3/2017/3](#) (Terms of Reference for HLG-PCCB), para 3

² [ECE/CES/2019/9](#)

³ The TOR of IAEG-SDGs para 3 says “At the time of membership rotation, one Co-Chair is expected to step down and is invited to serve for an additional term of two years as a member.” The TOR of HLG-PCCB in para 4 says: ‘One or both of the Co-Chairs are also expected to rotate every two years. However, when they step down they are invited to serve for an additional term of two years as members.’

⁴ [E/CN.3/2017/2](#), Annex I, para 2 (Terms of Reference for IAEG-SDGs)

⁵ [E/CN.3/2017/3](#), Annex III para 3 (Terms of Reference for HLG-PCCB)

8. In addition, UNSD has recommended to take into account:
- **Consultation within NSS and with countries of the sub-regions:** the IAEG-SDG members should be prepared to act as national or regional SDG focal points. Members should consult within NSS of their country when required and with countries of their sub-region.
 - **Active observers:** active observer countries to IAEG-SDGs can be considered as candidates for new members.
 - **Support and input to the working groups and sub-groups:** those members that are chairs of a working group or sub-group should be considered to remain in the Group as well as those that are active participants (assuming they do not fulfil other criteria recommended for rotation).
 - **Commitment from Chief Statisticians:** it is recommended that countries have commitment from their chief statistician or heads of office for the countries that are nominated to be represented, to ensure active participation of the country. It is recommended that the HLG-PCCB membership is at the Chief Statistician level.
 - **Meeting participation (virtual and physical):** taken into account for those countries who are/have been already members of the groups (members should commit to joining the majority of the virtual and physical meetings).
 - **Input to work programme:** taken into account for those countries who are/have been already members of the groups – how active they have been in volunteering for the work of the group and in providing feedback.
 - **Duration in the groups:** members that have held a long-standing membership in the Group (such as being with the Group for more than two or more terms) are suggested to be replaced by new members.
9. Some additional points from the principles adopted by the CES Bureau:
- Encourage a maximum membership of three (two-year) terms. A country may become a member of a group again after a break of two years. However, this guidance should be implemented with flexibility to account for involvement in ongoing group work and national contexts.
 - To ensure a smooth transition, members who served two (two-year) terms are anticipated to rotate off unless:
 - (i) They are a co-chair (in which case, they may serve as a member for a third term); or
 - (ii) They are substantively leading a recognized task on behalf of their group and rotation off would have a negative effect on the work.
 - The rotation of membership should be implemented in a staggered way to minimize disruption of ongoing work and preserve the acquired knowledge base of each group.
 - The rotation should be planned in advance, for example for the Secretariat will maintain a list of countries that are planning to rotate off, and countries who are interested of becoming members of the groups.

III. Members of the groups from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

10. The tables below present lists of current and previous members of the groups.

Table 1.
Membership of IAEG-SDGs from the UNECE region

<i>Region</i>	<i>2015-2017 members</i>	<i>2017-2019 members</i>	<i>2019-current members</i>
Eastern Europe	Russian Federation	Russian Federation	Russian Federation
	Armenia	Belarus	Belarus
North America and Northern, Southern and Western Europe	Canada	Canada	Canada (co-chair)
	France	France	France
	Germany	Germany	Germany
	The Netherlands	The Netherlands	Ireland
	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden (previous co-chair)
Central Asia*	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Kyrgyzstan

* The membership for Central Asia is coordinated by ESCAP

11. During the previous rotation in 2019, a number of countries expressed interest but could not be accommodated as members of the groups. These countries were put on a waiting list and they can be considered to have a priority for becoming a member (if still interested). For IAEG-SDGs, the countries on the waiting list are: **Republic of Moldova** (belongs to the Eastern Europe group, which is allocated 1 seat); **Italy, Spain and the United States** (belong to the North America and Northern, Southern and Western Europe group, which is allocated 4 seats).

12. As noted in para 7, according to TOR of IAEG-SDGs two members from Eastern Europe, North America and Northern, Southern and Western Europe should be rotated.

13. Since February 2021, Canada is co-opted as the co-chair of IAEG-SDGs and according to TOR, it should continue on the group. Sweden has stepped down as a co-chair but according to TOR is expected to serve an additional term of two years as a member.

14. For information: Azerbaijan also expressed interest to become a member in the previous rotation round and was put on a waiting list. This information was communicated to ESCWA.

Table 2.
Membership of HLG-PCCB from the UNECE region

<i>Region</i>	<i>2015-2017 members</i>	<i>2017-2019 members</i>	<i>2019-current members</i>
Eastern Europe	Hungary (co-chair)	Hungary (co-chair)	Albania (co-chair)
			Hungary
North America and Northern, Southern and Western Europe	Denmark	Denmark	Finland
	Italy	Italy	Switzerland
	Switzerland	Switzerland	United Kingdom
	United States	United States	
Central Asia*	Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Tajikistan

* The membership for Central Asia is coordinated by ESCAP

15. For HLG-PCCB, there is one country on a waiting list: **Poland** (belongs to the Eastern Europe group that is allocated 1 seat).

16. As noted in para 7, according to TOR of HLG-PCCB, one member from Eastern Europe, and two members from Europe and North America should be rotated.
17. Albania is a co-chair of HLG-PCCB and therefore cannot be rotated off at this round.
18. For information: Georgia and Kazakhstan also expressed interest to become members in the previous rotation round and were put on a waiting list. This information was communicated to ESCAP and ESCWA.

IV. Next steps

19. The Secretariat contacted all UNECE countries with the request to express interest in becoming a member of IAEG-SDGs or HLG-PCCB in mid-April.
 20. The Secretariat will collect the responses and make a proposal to the Bureau on new membership. The Bureau will make a decision and the Conference will be informed about the new membership at the CES plenary session in June 2021.
 21. In parallel, the Secretariat will communicate with ESCWA and ESCAP concerning the membership from the regions for which they are responsible (Central Asian countries that are members of both UNECE and ESCAP, and the Caucasus countries for which the membership is coordinated by ESCWA).
 22. The new membership is expected to be announced before the end of May, as the new term starts on 1 June 2021.
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