



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 June 2021

English only

Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Sixty-ninth plenary session

Geneva, 23-25 June 2021

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Preparations for the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Prepared by the Secretariat

Summary

The document presents ideas and considerations for preparation for the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics by UNECE during the 70th Conference of European Statisticians (CES) plenary session in 2022.

The document is presented to CES for information. Countries interested in participating in preparations for marking the anniversary are invited to express their interest to the Secretariat (fiona.willis-nunez@un.org).



I. Introduction

1. In 2022, it will be 30 years since the adoption of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics by UNECE at policy level. Subsequently, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted these principles in 1994 at the global level. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) endorsed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics at policy level in 2013; and in January 2014, they were adopted by General Assembly.
2. The 2022 plenary session will be the 70th plenary session of the Conference.
3. At its February 2021 meeting, the CES Bureau took note of the upcoming anniversary and agreed that the preparations should start early and should explore modern ways of marking the occasion.
4. This document presents a preliminary concept for preparing for the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics by UNECE.

II. Considerations for preparing the anniversary

5. The anniversary serves as an opportunity to:
 - Promote and communicate the relationship between the Fundamental Principles of official statistics and the value they represent, within the statistical community and with other stakeholders, e.g. policymakers, media and the public
 - Take stock of how National Statistical Offices (NSOs) have been demonstrating and implementing the Fundamental Principles over the years, focusing on practical experience from various countries
 - Reflect collectively on how the Fundamental Principles provide guidance in responding to current and future challenges
 - Increase awareness of international cooperation in official statistics and of the contribution of NSOs to the global development of official statistics.
6. The preparations for marking the anniversary will take into account the outcomes of the session on “How national statistical organizations adhere to the core values of official statistics”, held at the 69th plenary session, and the planned in-depth review on this topic to be undertaken by the CES Bureau in February 2022, led by Ireland and Canada. The activities should be closely aligned to cross-fertilize material and ideas.
7. The anniversary should include all CES member countries to the extent that they wish to engage and should include content in all three official languages of UNECE.

III. Possible activities

A. “Countdown” to the 2022 Conference of European Statisticians plenary session

8. From February to June 2022, ten ‘mini campaigns’ could be held at two-week intervals, focusing on a different principle in each period. The series would finish in June with principle 10, with the plenary session as an embodiment of the principle on international cooperation.
9. Each ‘mini campaign’ would be led by one or two volunteer countries, which could choose the activities they wish to undertake and which would also coordinate smaller contributions from other interested countries, e.g. a news article, social media activity, video, interview with their chief statistician. The activities would focus on the selected principle, how it is implemented and what it means in practice. In cooperation with the leading country/ies, the Secretariat would also publish an article on the corresponding Fundamental Principle in each two-week period.

10. All the materials prepared during the countdown would be published on an interactive online platform ('microsite') immediately prior to the CES plenary session.

B. Video about how the Fundamental Principles will shape statistics of the future

11. A short video could be produced combining statements from chief statisticians, experts in NSOs and Secretariat staff on what the Fundamental Principles mean to them and how they hope to be guided by them in the next 30 years. The video would be non-technical and target the general public.

12. Commentary from past CES chairs and members could be incorporated alongside the inputs from young statisticians showcasing innovative approaches or statistics on emerging themes and explaining how the Fundamental Principles underpin this work. The video would be shown during the plenary session and published on the UNECE website and social media channels. The video will be a collective product of member countries and all NSOs will be invited to post it on their own platforms.

C. Plenary session

13. All materials developed during the countdown will be launched at a special event during the plenary session. The video could be screened and the microsite demonstrated. This could be in a form of an evening event, to which press could be invited to interview the CES chair and other chief statisticians.

IV. Revised anniversary publication on the Conference of European Statisticians

14. In 2003, a publication celebrating 50 years of the Conference of European Statisticians was published. For 2022, it is proposed to collect contributions covering the important milestones of the last 20 years and publish them in an electronic format. A new anniversary publication, including these new contributions, is planned to be published to celebrate the 75th anniversary in 2027.

V. Call for contributions

15. Countries interested in participating in the activities proposed above, in particular in marking the 30th anniversary of adoption of the Fundamental Principles by UNECE, are invited to communicate this interest to the Secretariat (fiona.willis-nunez@un.org). Participation is welcome for any of the following:

- Organizers and contributors to mini campaigns on each Fundamental Principle
- Producing and/or participating in the video
- Translation of content into Russian and French.

16. Countries not in a position to contribute as leaders in the countdown are encouraged to offer examples or stories, or to participate in dissemination of the developed materials.

17. The contributors will be contacted by the Secretariat in late 2021.
