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Item 3(a)

Meeting with the Chair of the Conference of European Statisticians

Report by the Chair

Report by the Chair of the Conference of European Statisticians

1. The Chair of the Conference of European Statisticians, Mr. Padraig Dalton, is pleased to submit his report to the 120th meeting of EXCOM on 26 January 2022.

2. The report presents highlights of the work undertaken in support of statistical development and the measurement of SDGs, covering achievements since the previous report in January 2021, and the major activities planned for 2022 and beyond. More information is contained in the report of the sixty-ninth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians held on 23-25 June in Geneva (document ECE/CES/101). A detailed description of the activities planned for 2022 is provided in the UNECE Statistical Programme 2022 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2021/OCT/11).

I. Introduction

3. The objective of the UNECE statistical sub-programme is "to advance official statistics at the national and international levels for evidence-based policymaking and assessing progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to ensure the coordination of statistical activities in the ECE region under the Conference of European Statisticians (CES)". This objective encompasses all SDGs since it is designed to improve monitoring across all policy areas.

4. The work is governed by the Conference of European Statisticians and focuses on the priorities set by member States. The Conference consists of the Heads of the national statistical organizations (NSOs) in the UNECE region and the OECD member countries. Other countries outside the region, such as Brazil, China and Mongolia also actively participate in the work of the Conference.

5. The Statistical Division acts as secretariat for CES. It works in close collaboration with international organizations active in statistics in the region, such as the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). The Chief Statisticians of these organizations participate in the CES Bureau to ensure coordination of work and avoid duplication. The work of CES also responds to the global initiatives of the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), which sets the global statistical standards.

6. The CES work assists the national statistical systems in producing high-quality statistics and data in an increasingly interconnected, dynamic and digitized world. The COVID-19 pandemic has further intensified the impact of the data revolution and digitalization on the work of NSOs. The rapid change in technology, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, and the use of data analytics and data science have created opportunities for statistical offices. Furthermore, the use of new data sources can increase the speed and efficiency of production and the quality of statistics. However, obtaining access to the new sources that are often privately owned requires a legal basis and new methodologies, skills and technology, and comes with the challenge of ensuring data quality and confidentiality.

7. The data revolution and especially the COVID-19 pandemic has changed stakeholders' expectations and generated demand for more frequent and granular data, accessible online and available faster. Data has become a strategic asset and new data providers emerge publishing non-official statistics, which compete with official statistics although they may not follow the same standards of methodological and ethical rigour. In this increasingly competitive environment, national statistical offices need to maintain their relevance and remain the trusted information providers. In the new emerging data ecosystem statistical offices can play a much wider role based on their extensive experience with ensuring data quality, protection of privacy, handling data, etc. Supporting the development of new business models, new partnerships and

use of new sources and technologies are crucial to modernize official statistics and release the full value of official statistics.

8.   In many statistical offices the pandemic has become an accelerator of innovation. Investing in strengthening and modernizing official statistics is crucial as it is an essential part of the information infrastructure of a country. International cooperation on developing common approaches and tools and exchanging experience becomes even more important in these conditions, especially for countries who may not have resources for investing in modernisation on their own.

9.   All statistical work of UNECE is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, since it supports member States in measuring and communicating progress towards the 2030 Agenda. This is in accordance with the Declaration on the role of national statistical offices in measuring SDGs, adopted by CES in 2015.

II.   Achievements over the past twelve months

A.   Streamlining international statistical work on emerging issues

10.   In 2021, the Bureau of the Conference reviewed in-depth three statistical areas with the purpose of addressing emerging issues, improving inter-agency coordination and eliminating overlaps and gaps in statistical activities undertaken by various international organizations in the UNECE region. These reviews have led to the development of practical recommendations for countries to address the emerging challenges. The following reviews were undertaken: (i) new forms of employment and quality of employment, (ii) subjective poverty measures, and (iii) measuring non-observed/informal economy. All in-depth review papers are available on the UNECE website.

11.   Furthermore, integrating statistical and geospatial data, particularly in the context of statistics for SDGs, has increasing importance. Following up on the support by EXCOM to this direction of work, UNECE has developed a closer partnership between the statistical and geospatial communities in the region. Good examples of this were the first joint plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians and UN-GGIM: Europe, which took place in 2020 and will be repeated in 2022, as well as the renewal of the collaboration agreement between the secretariats of UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE Statistical Division for 2021-2023.

12.   Since 2018, UNECE, UN-GGIM: Europe and Eurostat have also organized annual meetings on the integration of statistical and geospatial information, to promote greater coordination of activities. Wider communication networks have been established by sharing information on contacts, including on SDGs and population and housing censuses. In 2021, a UNECE task team produced a geospatial view of UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process Model, highlighting the ways in which geospatial information contribute to the production of official statistics.

B.   New methodological guidelines and recommendations

13.   In 2021, CES endorsed four statistical guidelines and recommendations, developed by dedicated teams of specialists. These teams of specialists are set up by CES for a particular task with concrete terms of reference, timeframe, output and a sunset clause. All the statistical guidelines and recommendations are prepared in close collaboration with main international partners, in particular Eurostat, OECD, IMF and UN/DESA. All guidelines and recommendations are available on the UNECE website. The following guidelines were endorsed in 2021:

> (a)   *Framework on waste statistics* proposes a conceptual framework to harmonize international waste statistics, and provide better information needed for managing waste

and monitoring implementation of important waste-related policy frameworks, including on circular economy.

(b)   *Guidelines on Assessing the Quality of Administrative Sources for Use in Censuses* provides guidance to producers of population and housing censuses on how to assess the quality of administrative data for use in the census.

(c)   The second edition of the *Road Map for Statistics on SDGs* guides members of national statistical systems and other stakeholders on measuring progress towards the SDGs and its targets, taking into account the new challenges and developments in this area. The second edition of the Road Map builds on the first edition from 2017, which has been widely used by countries and international organizations.

(d)   *Approaches to Measuring Social Exclusion* consolidates current and emerging good practices in measuring social exclusion and in assessing their potential for delivering comparable results.

14.   Additionally, *Guide on producing CPI under lockdown* was developed. The Guide presents recommendations and emerging best practices in data collection, calculation methods and communication of the consumer price index under lockdown conditions based on experiences from the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

C.   Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals

15.   The work of the UNECE Statistics sub-programme is fully aligned with SDGs in support of national statistical offices as providers and national coordinators of statistics on SDGs. Measuring progress towards SDGs is a big challenge for the national statistical offices. The data on the 231 global SDG indicators come from many different national and international sources and have to be provided to over 50 international organizations responsible for the SDG indicators. The CES *Road Map on Statistics for SDGs* guides this work in countries. In 2021, the second edition of the Road Map reflecting new information, lessons learned and emerging challenges was finalised.

16.   In 2021, UNECE continued to maintain and improve its **regional platform on statistics for SDGs** launched in 2020, which consists of a knowledge hub and a dashboard and database of selected SDG indicators. The purpose of the platform is to communicate developments on measuring SDGs in the UNECE region, provide easy access to up-to-date indicators on implementing SDGs, and to disseminate data and metadata. The platform serves a broad range of audiences interested in SDGs. The knowledge hub and the database are primarily designed for statisticians and other professionals interested in methodologies, comparability of indicators, and analyses. The dashboard –available in English and Russian – is for the general public and for policymakers as an easy way to see where their country stands among other countries of the region with respect to the implementation of SDGs.

17.   The UNECE Commission session in 2019 requested for a yearly report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UNECE region to support the discussions at the sessions of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. The 2021 report, entitled *"Is the UNECE region on track for 2030?"*, assessed progress in the region with a common methodology used by the five regional commissions. It also featured stories from United Nations country teams and agencies active in the region, which took a closer look at how various regional and country level actions relate to sustainable development outcomes.

D.   COVID-19 impact and response

18.   In 2021 the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a significant impact on the work of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the region. NSOs faced greatly increased demand for statistics to manage the pandemic and its impacts, while it was necessary to find new ways to

collect data under the restrictions due to the pandemic. Learning from experience in 2020, statistical offices continue to innovate, and are introducing the new approaches as part of a regular production process.

19.   The pandemic has affected all areas of statistics and activated COVID-19 response across all work areas, focusing on building resilience of the statistical systems. All expert meetings and capacity development activities held since the pandemic broke out have addressed the impact of COVID-19 in their thematic area. A joint informal session of CES and OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy in June 2021 had a high-level discussion on Post- COVID: sustaining organisational and product innovation in NSOs[a]. A dedicated webinar was held on measuring poverty in pandemic times[b].

20.   UNECE is maintaining a [wiki platform on COVID-19 and official statistics](link)[c] to support statistical production in the face of the crisis and guide statistical producers to existing and newly developed resources from UNECE and partners. The platform contains resources both on new statistical needs to support countries in managing the crisis, and on emergency measures to ensure continuity of statistical production in core areas of economic, social and demographic statistics such as national accounts, consumer prices, population censuses and household surveys.

III.   Major activities planned for 2022 and beyond

21.   The statistical work of UNECE will focus on the following priority areas: (i) statistics for SDGs; (ii) economy and globalization; (iii) population and migration, gender, poverty and inequality; (iv) environment, climate change and hazardous events and disasters; and (iv) strategic and managerial issues and modernization of official statistics. Capacity development in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia will focus on areas highlighted by the assessments of national statistical systems in these countries. Dealing with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and adjusting to the 'new normal' will be a cross-cutting thread throughout the work in all areas.

22.   Following the increasing use of online and hybrid meetings, CES and the UNECE Secretariat will continue to combine traditional and new approaches to organising meetings. The aim is to make the best use of the advantages of the digital communication platforms and provide efficient support to countries by adapting the working methods to the changing environment.

23.   At its annual plenary sessions, the Conference focuses on topics selected by the Heads of statistical offices to address their most pertinent current challenges. In 2022, the main focus of the plenary session will be on the collaboration with private data providers, and on core values and Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

24.   Cooperation with the geospatial communities will continue to better integrate statistical and geospatial data. A second joint plenary session of CES and UN-GGIM: Europe will be held in June 2022 focusing on standards and infrastructure of statistical and geospatial data.

25.   A joint task team to determine where geospatial and statistical standards need to be better aligned to ensure greater interoperability is planned to be established in 2022. Whilst many capacity development activities are currently on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both the UNECE and UN-GGIM: Europe remain committed to develop new activities when conditions become more favourable. Capacity development activities will be conducted in partnership with key partners in this area, particularly Eurostat and UNSD. A joint workshop is planned to take place in 2022.

26.   The CES Bureau is the custodian of the Classification of Statistical Activities, an internationally recognised standard for describing and recognising official statistical work by

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[a] https://unece.org/statistics/events/CES2021
[b] https://unece.org/info/Statistics/events/352211
[c] https://statswiki.unece.org/display/COV/Home

domain. It has been developed by the Conference and widely used by countries and international organizations. In 2022, UNECE will test a new version of the classification taking into account the emergence of new statistical areas, such as climate change-related statistics and statistics on governance.

A.   Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals

27.   The statistical work of UNECE encompasses all SDGs, supporting national statistical offices to facilitate country-led reporting of statistics for SDGs. In 2022, work will continue to enhance the **UNECE regional platform for data on SDG indicators, available in English and Russian**. The dashboard and database will be further enhanced and their coverage of indicators expanded The *knowledge hub on statistics for SDGs* contains more detailed information, as well as useful resources for experts.

28.   In 2021 the Conference endorsed a 2nd edition of its flagship publication, the *CES Road Map on Statistics for SDGs* widely used by countries and international organizations. In 2022 the secretariat will focus on supporting countries to implement the Road Map. UNECE work in this area is steered and coordinated through the CES Steering Group on statistics for SDGs (co-chaired by Poland and Sweden) that establishes priorities and identifies concrete actions and tools to support countries in their work on statistics for SDGs.

29.   A Task Team has prepared a matrix as a self-assessment tool for statistical offices to identify their needs and priorities for capacity development. The Task Team will continue testing the matrix focusing on its use by countries (the recipient side) and possibly extending its use to other producers in the statistical system.

30.   Another Task Team will pilot automatic data transmission to the UN/DESA Statistics Division DataLab, and will use the results to compare the data provided by countries and data provided by international organizations responsible for selected SDG indicators. A new work stream will focus on communication with policy makers to explore how better meet their needs and promote the use of official statistics for decision making.

31.   The 2022 **Report on progress with SDGs** will assess the UNECE region's progress towards the goals and targets. It will be prepared in cooperation with the UN agencies and country teams represented in the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia.

32.   The Statistical Division will also undertake methodological work and national statistical capacity development on demographic, social, economic, and environment statistics to inform policy decisions related to SDGs. The thematic work is described below in the respective sections.

B.   Economy and globalization

33.   UNECE works with countries to develop and implement international standards and recommendations to improve the quality and comparability of economic statistics, which are a prerequisite for the compilation of many global SDG indicators, including all those with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the denominator. The main priority areas for 2022 include measuring economic growth, well-being and sustainability; globalization; digitalization; informal economy, statistical business registers; quality of employment and new forms of employment; and price statistics. UNECE will support countries in producing statistics considering the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing methodological guidance.

34.   UNECE promotes the **implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts** (2008 SNA) to enable the provision of high-quality data for economic analysis and policies under the Global Implementation Programme, and contributes to the global effort of updating the SNA. The meetings of the Group of Experts on National Accounts (organized jointly with Eurostat and OECD) will inform countries of the progress achieved, seek feedback

and facilitate the testing of the draft recommendations developed by the task teams working on the SNA research agenda in measuring globalization, digitalization, well-being and sustainability, informal economy and communication. Issues related to measuring SDGs and post- COVID recovery will be also addressed by the Group. UNECE will continue to support the implementation of the 2008 SNA in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South East Europe (SEE) in cooperation with other regional partners. A thematic workshop for EECCA and SEE countries will be organized in 2022 to ensure the involvement of the countries in the consultation and testing of the SNA Update recommendations that are most relevant for this region.

35.   Better measures are needed to assess how skills and knowledge acquired through education and training influence economic growth and labour productivity. In 2020, UNECE published a Compilation Guide, which aims to help countries construct internationally comparable **Satellite Accounts on Education and Training**. This Guide became the basis for the development of extended accounts on labour, education and human capital, which will become part of the Updated SNA. In 2022, UNECE will facilitate the use of the Guide in countries and will assist the testing of proposed SNA extended accounts which will ultimately enable the better measurement of human capital and labour productivity.

36.   In 2021 UNECE has launched an online inventory of **satellite accounts** produced by countries to facilitate sharing experience and best practice. In 2022 UNECE will update the inventory, which will also be used as a tool for baseline assessment and evaluation of countries' abilities to produce the extended accounts included in the 2025 SNA Update.

37.   In a globalized world, enterprises operate in complex value chains that span multiple countries, making "national" accounting increasingly challenging. The **exchange of economic data** between countries for statistical purposes is, therefore, becoming a necessity, as identified in the *Guide to Measuring Global Production* (UNECE, 2015). The UNECE *Guide to Sharing Economic Data in Official Statistics*, published in 2021, highlights the importance of data sharing to capture economic stocks and flows correctly in official statistics and introduces practical ideas and common tools to make data sharing possible. In 2022, UNECE will promote the implementation of the Guide and the exchange of experience between countries in this area. The Group of Experts on National Accounts will serve as a forum for the network of experts on multinational enterprise groups.

38.   UNECE will continue to collaborate with other international expert groups dealing with the **impact of globalization on economic statistics**, such as the United Nations Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics; the UN Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics; the Integrated Global Accounts project of Eurostat, and various OECD expert groups.

39.   UNECE, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), Eurostat, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), OECD and other partners, promotes the implementation of international recommendations on the **Consumer Price Index** (CPI), which plays an important role in policymaking and is widely used for indexation of wages, pensions and social security allowances. Work in 2022 will include follow-up activities on the implementation of the 2020 CPI Manual in member countries, support to countries on the compilation of the CPI during and after lockdown periods and preparation of the 2023 biennial meeting of the Group of Experts on CPI, which will discuss a range of topics, including new data sources and the role of CPI in measuring the digital economy and well-being.

40.   Together with Eurostat and OECD, UNECE supports the development of **statistical business registers** which are indispensable for efficient data collection and production of economic statistics. UNECE will continue to support the implementation of the *Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers* (UNECE, 2015) and *Guidelines on the use of statistical business registers for business demography and entrepreneurship statistics* (UNECE, 2019) in national statistical offices. In 2022, UNECE will organise the biennial meeting of the Group of Experts on Business Registers, jointly with Eurostat and OECD. A special session will discuss the challenges in producing statistical business registers in EECCA and SEE countries.

41.   UNECE, jointly with Eurostat, ILO and OECD, contributes to the international work on **measuring quality of employment** which aims to respond to the demand for data on the qualitative aspects of employment beyond traditional labour force statistics. The Steering Group on Quality of Employment will work on updating the *Handbook on Measuring the Quality of Employment* (UNECE, 2015) to reflect revisions of ILO standards, country experiences and emerging issues.

42.   Over the previous decade the labour market in many countries has been undergoing structural changes. New **forms of employment** have emerged, such as employment in the 'gig' economy, 'platform' work and 'teleworking'. These developments have significant economic and social impacts and there is increased interest from policy makers in statistics to describe the development of the labour market. As the global community looks ahead to the post COVID-19 recovery, new questions are being asked regarding the long-term effects of the pandemic on the prevalence of different forms of employment. At the same time, there is a lack of internationally agreed concepts and definitions allowing to produce coherent and comparable statistics on new forms of employment. To assist countries in this, work is undertaken, jointly with ILO, Eurostat and OECD, to develop a conceptual framework for measuring new and emerging forms of employment, planned to be presented to CES plenary in June 2022.

C.   Population and migration, gender, poverty and inequalities

43.   There is an increasing policy demand for data on people's well-being, social environment and demographic change. The work in 2022 will focus on poverty and inequalities, migration, gender and population censuses. Many challenges relate to the need to increase the use of administrative data and to measure hard-to-reach population groups. This area of work is of particular importance for monitoring progress towards SDGs since many indicators require population data in the denominator and should be disaggregated by sex, migratory status and other variables.

44.   UNECE supports countries' preparations for **population and housing censuses**. Censuses represent the very foundation of statistical systems. They provide the baseline information used to plan public infrastructure and services, and to produce SDG indicators and many other statistics where population is the denominator. Censuses cover the entire population and allow the production of statistics for various small population groups whose measurement is essential to ensure that "no one is left behind" in working towards the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

45.   The resolution of the Economic and Social Council 2020 *World Population and Housing Census Programme* provides a global mandate for this work. The COVID pandemic continues to have profound impacts on the 2020 round of censuses. Many of the censuses scheduled for 2020 or 2021 experienced delays from a few weeks to several years. The pandemic has triggered changes in methods, including accelerating some pre-existing trends. Taking into account these challenges and developments, in 2022 a series of task teams (13 in total) under the CES Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses will embark on a multi-year effort to develop the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses of the 2030 Round. In 2022 the task teams will develop their work plans to reflect the impacts of the recent changes in census-taking. An expert meeting and capacity development workshop in September 2022 will provide an opportunity for the community of census experts to contribute to this effort, as well as to share their experiences of conducting their censuses of the 2020 round.

46.   UNECE promotes exchange of experience and methodological work on **measuring poverty and inequalities**. Measuring progress towards SDGs on the reduction of poverty (Goal 1) and inequalities (Goal 10) requires comparable data and a coherent set of indicators. In 2022, UNECE will hold an expert meeting to advance the methodological work on the additional needs on measuring poverty and inequality raised by the pandemic. Focus on timely provision of statistics and sharing best practices would support governments' policy response

to COVID-19 on social protection, social security and employment, and in addressing vulnerable population groups (SDGs 1, 8, and 10). UNECE will continue to promote the use of its harmonized survey module for measuring poverty. The work will follow the recommendations of the available methodological guidance, including the recently developed documents – *Guide on Poverty Measurement* (UNECE, 2017), *Poverty Measurement: Guide to Data Disaggregation* (UNECE, 2020), and *Approaches to Measuring Social Exclusion* (UNECE, 2021).

47.   UNECE aims to improve the availability, quality and international comparability of **migration statistics**. This responds to the strong demand for collecting and using data on migration, expressed, among others, in the first objective of the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018. Ten SDG indicators are directly related to migration and a further 24 need to be disaggregated by migratory status. The 2022 meeting of the Group of Experts on Migration Statistics will discuss changes in the definitions of various categories of migrants, consequences of the COVID crisis on migration flows and related measurement issues, use of administrative data and new data sources for measuring migration, results from the 2020 population census round on migration data. A task force will finalize a study on the use of new data sources for measuring migration and cross-border mobility. To enhance the use and exchange of migration data, UNECE will continue to update and improve its *Clearing House on Migration Statistics.* To improve data availability and comparability, UNECE will continue promoting use of its harmonized survey module for measuring migration and remittances.

48.   UNECE work on **gender statistics** aims to share knowledge and experience and to develop capacity in areas where data and indicators of gender equality are insufficient or lacking. Better gender statistics are needed for the monitoring of SDGs, particularly to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Goal 5). The COVID-19 crisis has disproportionately affected women and girls, reversing gains towards gender equality and the empowerment of women. High-quality gender statistics are critical for monitoring the long-term social and economic impacts of the pandemic on women and men and for developing gender-responsive mitigation and recovery policies. In 2022 UNECE Group of Experts on Gender Statistics will follow up on the implementation of *its guidance on measuring the gender-related impacts of Covid-19,* and discuss new methodological work on emerging issues and the production of gender statistics for SDGs and COVID-19 recovery. UNECE will continue to promote the national application of its *toolkit for training users of gender statistics.*

49.   In 2020, UNECE launched, jointly with UNICEF, new work to improve the availability, quality, and comparability of **statistics on children, adolescents and youth**. In 2022, the Task Force on Statistics on Children, Adolescents and Youth will complete its work and publish guidance that provides recommendations for more harmonized and rationalized definitions, methodologies and approaches across the countries participating in the Conference of European Statisticians. The guidance will address statistics on children, adolescents and youth generally and also focus on three topics: (a) violence against children, adolescents and youth; (b) children and adolescents in institutional care; and (c) children, adolescents and youth with disabilities.

D.   Environment, climate change and hazardous events and disasters

50.   UNECE activities in this domain aim to improve statistics that are of high relevance to environment policies and required to derive many SDG indicators. The main priorities in 2022 will include:

(a) climate change-related statistics and indicators,

(b) environment statistics,

(c) the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA),

(d) statistics related to hazardous events and disasters (including the COVID-19 pandemic), and

(e) measuring the circular economy.

51. Among the three pillars of sustainable development – economy, society and environment – **data availability for the environmental pillar** is the lowest. UN Environment estimates that for about 58 per cent of the environment-related SDG indicators there is insufficient data, making it very difficult to assess progress and understand the environmental challenges. Providing data on environment-related SDGs (such as Goals 6, 14 and 15) is a challenge for all countries, especially those with less developed statistical systems. The Joint Task Force (JTF) of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy and CES will continue to support the improvement of the production and quality of environment statistics in EECCA and SEE countries, in line with the *UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*. The Guidelines are currently under review to align them with SDG indicators, the United Nations Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) and SEEA. This work will result in a revised set of indicators and statistics recommended for regular production in the region. The work contributes to the pan-European Shared Environmental Information System and is carried out in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency, Eurostat and UNSD.

52. UNECE supports **the use of the global System of Environmental-Economic Accounting** (SEEA) in the region, jointly with OECD. This includes building capacity in support of SEEA, providing a forum for exchange of knowledge and experience, assessing data availability and developing methods and sources for the necessary data. In 2022 the work will continue with a focus on identifying new techniques and data sources for compiling SEEA accounts (including Ecosystem Accounts), policy uses, communication strategies and coordination of work in the region. UNECE will also support building capacity for environment statistics and SEEA in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

53. As climate change is affecting all aspects of the economy and society, more and more data from national statistical offices are needed for climate-related policies and analyses. The annual UNECE Expert Forum for producers and users of **climate change related statistics** is a platform for collaborating, sharing ideas and experience, discussing concepts and measurement issues, and identifying areas where practical guidance is needed. The UNECE Steering Group (chaired by the Netherlands) will continue to collect good practices in climate change-related statistics through a wiki platform and an annual good practice sharing exercise "Climate Change-Related Statistics in Practice". In 2022, the work will focus on the role of NSOs in providing data and statistics related to the Paris Agreement, including producing indicators for tracking nationally determined contributions and measuring climate change adaptation. The Steering Group will continue to support the implementation of the *CES Recommendations on Climate Change-related Statistics* proposing holistic and systemic approaches to the development of climate change-related statistics. The Group will also follow the implementation of the set of core climate change-related indicators, endorsed by CES in June 2020.

54. UNECE brings together statisticians and disaster risk experts, including from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), to develop **official statistics for hazardous events and disasters**. The *Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters* (UNECE, 2019) identify practical steps for NSOs to support disaster risk management (DRM). The Recommendations also call for statistical operationalization of terms, definitions and classifications used in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the establishment of a forum for exchange of knowledge and experience. In 2021, UNECE Statistical Division in collaboration with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics (IAEG), organised the first global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics, bringing together statisticians, disaster risk management experts, researchers and NGOs. In 2022 the work will focus on supporting the statistical operationalization of the new hazard definition and classification presented in the UNDRR/ISC Sendai Hazard Definition and Classification Review Technical Report, and the development of implementation guidelines for NSOs and national statistical systems.

55.   The COVID-19 pandemic falls into the category of a biological disaster according to the Sendai Framework terminology. Since the beginning of the pandemic NSOs have been playing a crucial role in supporting the management of this disaster by providing the required statistics for policy makers and the general public. The UNECE Statistical Division will continue to maintain the wiki-platform COVID-19 and official statistics and support NSOs to increase capacity and knowledge in producing the statistics that is required.

56.   The policy initiatives aiming to establish a **circular economy** are increasing in many countries and the European Union. However, there is no single internationally agreed upon definition of a circular economy and how to measure it. In 2020 the CES Bureau conducted an in-depth review of "Measuring the circular economy", which asked for practical guidelines on measuring circular economy. The work will continue in 2022 with drafting guidelines, clarification of key terms and definitions, identification of key statistics, indicators and data sources, and a description of the required institutional collaboration. The work on the Guidelines is expected to finish in June 2023.

57.   **Waste statistics** are of high policy interest in the context of SDGs, green economy, resource efficiency, circular economy, sustainable consumption and production, climate change and many other policy areas. In June 2021 CES endorsed a *Framework on Waste Statistics* developed by an UNECE task force, involving experts from countries, professional and international organizations (such as the Basel Convention Secretariat, Eurostat, OECD and UNSD). The framework provides a basis for harmonizing the concepts and definitions, developing standard classifications and providing methodological guidance to produce better quality information for important waste-related policies. The Task Force also identified a list of important issues for further work, for example further clarification of key terms in the context of SEEA or the need of guidelines for the practical distinction of wastes, resources and products. In 2022 UNECE will continue working on some of these open issues, with priority on those relevant for measuring the circular economy.

E.   Strategic and managerial issues

58.   The first Principle of the **Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**, developed by the Conference and adopted by the UN General Assembly as a global standard, states that "official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the government, the economy and the public with data […]. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honour citizens' entitlement to public information." To be able to honour this commitment, official statistics need a strong legal and institutional basis. As the landscape of information producers is rapidly changing, the legislative and institutional infrastructure must support the development of new business models, engagement in partnerships and use of new data sources and technologies to allow modernization of official statistics. UNECE activities in this domain aim to strengthen the responsiveness, accountability and transparency of statistical institutions to ensure access to high quality information, as enshrined in SDGs (Goal 16).

59.   The year 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption by UNECE of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. These Principles form the cornerstone of official statistics to guarantee their relevance, impartiality and quality. The Principles were later adopted at the global level by the UN Statistical Commission and the UN General Assembly, and are the basis for the EU Statistics Code of Practice. Work is progressing on developing guidance on core values and behaviours that bring the Fundamental Principles to life in everyday statistical practice. An agreed list of core values and their mapping to the Principles is planned to be submitted to CES for endorsement in 2022.

60.   In 2022, UNECE will continue to provide a platform for national statistical offices to share experience in **modernizing legal and institutional frameworks of official statistics** and discuss emerging issues posing legal challenges to national statistical systems. The work will focus on access to privately-held data, data ethics, data governance and stewardship, and

lessons learnt from implementation of the *Generic Law of Official Statistics*. National and international legal experts will continue the discussions initiated in the 2020 and 2021 online expert meetings, and identify needs for supporting materials and practical guidance.

61.   Following up on the *Recommendations for promoting, measuring and communicating the value of official statistics* (UNECE, 2017), in 2022 the Task Force on testing and further developing the framework (chaired by the UK) plans to submit its final report to CES for endorsement. In 2022 the Bureau may decide to follow up on the recommendations of this work, including a more strategic approach to determining the value from a user perspective, and gathering further case studies in an online repository, in particular those related to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the **value of official statistics**.

62.   The growing importance of **integrating statistical and geospatial information** calls for closer partnerships between geospatial experts and statisticians. An Economic and Social Council resolution (E/2016/L.28) "requests that the regional commissions provide relevant support, upon request and as appropriate, to the work of the regional bodies of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)." In 2022, UNECE and UN-GGIM: Europe will continue to promote dialogue between national bodies responsible for geospatial and statistical information. Further joint activities are envisaged, including a joint workshop with Eurostat, and work on geospatial and statistical standards. The aim is to bring together experts from national statistical, mapping and geospatial agencies to share good practices.

63.   UNECE Statistical Division chairs the **Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia**, which was established in 2020 as part of the UN reform process. This group brings together data and statistics focal points from UN agencies active in the region, as well as from UN country teams and key non-UN organisations. Its main focus is on coordinating statistical capacity development activities in the region, which will continue throughout 2022.

F.   Modernization of official statistics

64.   Producers of official statistics are facing many challenges and operate in a continuously changing environment. At the same time, budgets are under pressure and new producers enter the arena with non-official statistics, which compete with official statistics. UNECE is working with countries to create models, standards, frameworks and guidelines to assist them in their modernization and collaboration efforts. The UNECE High Level Group for the Modernization of Statistics (HLG-MOS, chaired by Canada) actively steers the modernization of statistical organizations. HLG-MOS provides a common platform for experts to develop solutions in a flexible and agile way integrating various expert groups, projects, workshops, and other activities.

65.   UNECE Statistical Division provides the secretariat for this work, which is carried out by several Modernization Groups (Supporting Standards, Capabilities and Communication, Blue Skies Thinking Network, and from 2022 onward, Applying Data Science and Modern Methods), through projects and sprint workshops throughout the year. A series of meetings with innovative focus will be organized on data collection, data editing, data confidentiality, dissemination and communication, and human resource management and training for statistical organisations. Due to the dynamic nature of this work, the main activities and projects for 2022 were identified in the annual HLG-MOS conference and will be confirmed in early 2022.

66.   To be able to work together, statistical offices should use the same models and standards. The Supporting Standards Modernization Group supports the **use of models and standards for statistical production developed under HLG-MOS** to facilitate modernization activities such as the *Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations* (GAMSO), the *Generic Statistical Business Process Model* (GSBPM), and the *Generic Statistical Information Model* (GSIM). In 2022, the group will revise GSIM based on implementation experiences, further develop the core ontology for official statistics, work on

overarching GSBPM process, and build further the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA) capacity. The annual 2022 UNECE ModernStats World Workshop will discuss and advance the work.

67.   The COVID-19 pandemic has made even more apparent that statistical organizations need a modern flexible and agile workforce. The Modernization Group on Capabilities and Communication works on emerging issues in **human resource management in statistical offices.** In 2022 the group will further develop the toolkits for managers, employers and employees needed in the modern statistical organisations, including solutions how to reach young people. The group also provides guidelines on **risk management**, **ethics**, **digital marketing and communication strategies, competency profiles**, and other aspects needed to increase efficiency of statistical organizations.

68.   The UNECE Blue Skies Thinking Network is the **innovation** hub of the modernization work programme. It assesses emerging opportunities in the modernization of statistics. In 2021, a core group of high-level experts assessed various emerging areas of work to identify areas that had most potential to help statistical agencies confront the COVID pandemic and meet emerging user needs. These included network data, hotspot joint biosecurity centre platforms, rapid survey systems, how to go from innovation to implementation, and several modern IT technologies. In 2022, the network will continue to consider new and emerging topics such as digital twins, metadata virtualization, nowcasting and start collaborative teams to jointly embark on new areas of work.

69.   In 2022, a new modernisation group will start focusing on **applying data science and modern methods in official statistics**. The proposals will be largely driven by the interests expressed across the statistical community. The group will coordinate its work with related CES activities, such as the Machine Learning Community or the Blue Skies Thinking Network as well as with other major international initiatives.

70.   Every year UNECE Statistical division supports **two modernization projects** to address the most urgent matters facing statistical offices. For example, in 2021 many countries worked jointly in the Synthetic Data Project to test methods to create data sets that maintain the information of the original source while making identification of individuals impossible. In the Input Privacy-Preservation techniques project countries develop ways to make sensitive data available for analysis without revealing the underlying micro data. The importance of this has become apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Input-Privacy project will continue in 2022. The other two most likely projects for 2022 will be on a Statistical Data Governance Framework and on a Meta-Academy for the Modernization of Official Statistics.

71.   To continue the successful work on the **Machine Learning project**, a Machine Learning Community was set up in 2021, supported by the UK Office for National Statistics. The objectives include a platform to facilitate research to modernise official statistics, build capacity in machine learning and share knowledge. The work is community driven, and all activities are led by the members. It is open to all official statistical bodies and accessible to various levels of expertise. This work will further intensify in 2022 to allow more countries to benefit from it.

72.   Several aspects of statistics are not domain specific. UNECE is one of the few organizations that delivers expert meetings in important cross-cutting areas of statistical production, bringing together experts from various domains for joint work and exchange of practices. For 2022, UNECE is planning expert meetings on statistical **data collection**, **dissemination and communication** of statistics, and **statistical data editing**, and will start the preparations for the 2023 expert meeting on **statistical data confidentiality**.

G.   UNECE statistical database

73.   UNECE operates a statistical database offering key statistics on member countries via free online interfaces in English and Russian. This work promotes open access to, and use of,

data for evidence-based decision making, as requested in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

74.   Emphasis is placed on providing data on areas of high political importance to governments and to the United Nations system, such as SDGs, migration, globalization, gender equality, population, education, employment, work-life balance, road traffic accidents, inland transport, and forest resources. The compilation of data on these topics gives insights into measurement issues and helps to identify priorities for UNECE methodological work to improve the quality and comparability of national statistics, and to provide targeted support for the development of statistical systems in countries.

75.   The SDG dashboard will be further enhanced by extending the coverage of indicators. It provides quickly and easily information on the UNECE countries' progress in achieving SDGs to a broad non-specialist audience in both PC and mobile-friendly formats. The data are stored using the existing infrastructure of the UNECE statistical database, allowing users to build customized tables and graphs and to consult the metadata.

76.   The database provides the source data for publications such as the annual report for the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, as well as for preparing regular short articles on economic and social development in the UNECE region, published in the UNECE Weekly newsletter and on the UNECE website. Annual user surveys are conducted to ensure relevance and to identify new user needs. Improvements to the efficiency of data processing tools will continue in 2022.

77.   The UNECE statistical database is also used to disseminate data for UNECE policy work. In this respect, the database is a strategic resource for the whole UNECE and beyond.

IV.   Any proposed change to the subsidiary structure of the Committee

78.   The work of the Conference is undertaken by steering groups and task forces created for the fulfilment of a particular initiative of the member States. All teams of specialists work according to detailed terms of reference with a concrete timetable and deliverables. The CES Bureau regularly reviews the progress of work of the groups, and they cease to exist upon completion of their task.

79.   The following three teams completed their work in 2021:

(a)   Task Force on waste statistics;

(b)   Task Force on measuring social exclusion;

(c)   Task Force on assessing the quality of administrative sources for use in censuses;

80.   The Conference endorsed the mandates of the following groups:

(a)   Task Force on measuring circular economy;

(b)   Task Force on data stewardship;

(c)   Task Force on the role of NSOs in achieving national climate objectives.

81.   The Conference also endorsed the Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2022, as contained in documents ECE/CES/2021/16 and ECE/CES/2021/16/Add.1.

82.   The Executive Committee is invited to adopt the decisions listed in paras 80-81.

V. Follow-up to the 2021 session of the Economic Commission for Europe

83.   The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) considered the Commission decisions at its plenary session in June 2021 (document ECE/CES/2021/1), and took note of the decisions of the 69th UNECE session that have implications for its work, including work on measuring circular economy.

84.   In 2021, work started to explore how to harmonize approaches for measuring the circular economy and provide a platform for exchange of experience and knowledge in this area, in close collaboration with UN/DESA Statistical Division, OECD, Eurostat and other international organizations. The aim is to develop practical guidelines for measuring circular economy, including clarifying the measurement scope, key terms and definitions; identifying key statistics and indicators needed from the policy point of view; identifying data sources, with particular attention on SEEA and the Framework for Development of Environment Statistics; and describing the required institutional collaboration. This work is building also on the *Waste Statistics Framework* that CES endorsed in 2021. The work is planned to be completed by June 2023.

VI. Intersectoral activities: new activities and/or progress in existing intersectoral activities

Statistical database

85.   The Statistical Division provides and maintains the necessary database infrastructure required by other UNECE divisions. For instance, the data collected by the Transport and Forestry Divisions are maintained and accessible via the online UNECE statistical database. The Statistical Division coordinates the UNECE data production for consistency of data and terminology, and maintains the technology and methods used for data collection, storage and dissemination.

Sustainable Development Goals

86.   The issues identified in the report prepared by the UNECE Nexus on Measuring and Monitoring Progress towards SDGs provide basis for further work of CES in this area. The Statistical Division also acts as the UNECE focal point for the global SDG indicators and liaises with UN/DESA on related issues.

Environment

87.   The outcomes of the UNECE Nexus work on Sustainable use of natural resources feed into the work of CES on environmental statistics, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and climate change-related statistics.

88.   The intersectoral activity on environmental statistics and indicators carried out jointly with the Committee on Environmental Policy assists the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as South-East Europe to strengthen and harmonize environmental statistics. The terms of reference of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics were renewed by EXCOM in December 2021.

Disaster risk reduction

89.   The Statistical Division collaborates with the UNECE focal point on disaster risk reduction in the work related to measurement of hazardous events and disasters.

VII. Technical cooperation activities

90.   UNECE aims to enhance the capacity of national statistical systems in all member countries, and particularly those in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, to implement international standards and guidelines and to meet the challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The capacity development is directly related to SDG 17 "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development" (targets 17.18 and 17.19).

91.   Special attention is paid to promoting the *United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*, which provide the basis for a sound legal and institutional framework for national statistical systems. The CES has endorsed a new *UNECE Statistical Capacity Development Strategy*, which reinforces the principle that capacity development activities should be user driven.

92.   UNECE capacity development activities include:

- Global Assessments of national statistical systems and sector reviews of specific areas of official statistics at the national level

- Capacity development workshops

- Advisory services to address country-specific needs

- Field projects implemented in partnership with national statistical offices and UN country teams

- Development of methodological guidance and training materials.

93.   Capacity development activities are carried out in partnership with other international organizations, in particular Eurostat, EFTA, United Nations country teams, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UNSD, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) and other bilateral and multilateral partners.

94.   UNECE capacity development activities are based on the findings and recommendations of Global Assessments of national statistical systems. Global Assessments are carried out in cooperation with Eurostat and EFTA and are used by various donors active in the region, such as the World Bank. The reports provide a clear picture of the state of development of official statistics in a country. They help national authorities to better programme the long-term development of statistics, and international donors to focus their technical cooperation activities on the identified needs. Global Assessments have resulted in action plans to improve national statistics in all countries where they have been conducted. In 2022, UNECE, with the partner organizations Eurostat and EFTA, plans to conduct a Global Assessment of Turkmenistan.

95.   A new United Nations Development Account project is expected to start in 2022, in partnership with UN/DESA Statistical Division, other UN Regional Commissions, UNEP and UNODC. A range of workshops and other statistical capacity development activities will be carried out under the project, with a focus on supporting post-COVID recovery.

96.   The Steering Committee of the Multi-Donor Programmatic Trust Fund to Support Statistical Capacity Building in Eastern Europe and CIS Countries (ECASTAT) will continue to finance a UNECE-led capacity development programme to support the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The programme, which runs until 2022, consists of regional workshops and other training activities in the areas of national accounts, statistical business registers, prices, migration and remittance statistics. The Programme also supports the participation of experts from the target countries in the CES expert group meetings.

97.   A capacity development project funded by the Russian Federation will continue in 2022 to support the CIS countries to provide high quality statistics and indicators to monitor progress towards SDGs, with a special emphasis on environment statistics.

VIII.   Cooperation with other organizations

98.   The Conference and its Bureau maintain very good cooperation and close working contacts with the other international organizations active in statistics in the UNECE region. Eurostat, OECD, CIS-STAT, IMF, the World Bank and the United Nations Statistics Division of DESA are permanent observers in the CES Bureau. Most activities and methodological work are undertaken jointly with Eurostat and OECD allowing efficient use of resources, avoiding duplication of effort, and ensuring that all countries of the region benefit from the ongoing international statistical work in emerging areas.

99.   Many international organizations are contributing to the work of the Conference of European Statisticians. The cooperation takes the form of joint meetings, joint capacity development projects or activities, partnership in developing recommendations and guidelines, and contribution to the work of the CES task forces and task teams. In addition to the organizations that are members of the CES Bureau, the following partners can be mentioned:

United Nations organizations

- All UN Regional Commissions: the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) – developing statistical capacity across all statistical domains, including climate change, hazardous events and disasters, SDG-related indicators and economic statistics; sharing of common approaches and methodologies in measuring progress towards SDGs;

- International Labour Organization (ILO) – measuring quality of employment and consumer prices, and ensuring that economic and social statistics align with labour-related international standards and definitions; development and integration of standards for modernization of official statistics;

- UN-Women – capacity development in gender statistics and gathering harmonized statistics for the SDG indicator on gender equality in local government;

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – collaborating on statistics on gender in trade and use of new data sources;

- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) – providing statistics for hazardous events and disasters;

- United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Europe) – collaborating to align geospatial and statistical standards and initiatives;

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – capacity development activities to help countries produce environment-related SDG indicators and co-chairing the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia, bringing together data and statistics focal points from regional bodies and UN Country Teams;

- UN Climate Change (the UNFCCC secretariat), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and improving climate change-related statistics;

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – long-standing support for UNECE work on population and housing censuses;

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) – work on statistics on children and youth;

- World Meteorological Organization – climate change related statistics, hazardous events and disasters.

100.   As part of a United Nations Development Account project coordinated by UNDESA, UNECE worked alongside nine other United Nations entities (UNDESA, UNCTAD, UNEP, UN-Habitat, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the four other Regional Commissions – ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA) to develop statistics and data for SDGs, and measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable population groups. Proposal for a new joint UNDA project is being prepared.

101.   UNECE also works through a UN Geospatial Network with over 30 other UN agencies on the management of geospatial information.

Other regional and international organizations

- Eurasian Economic Commission – on statistics for SDGs and economic statistics;

- European Free Trade Association (EFTA) – supporting statistical work in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia through technical cooperation and capacity development activities; EFTA has supported UNECE's online capacity development events in a wide range of statistical areas;

- European Environment Agency – on climate change-related statistics;

- Global Forum for Geography and Statistics – webinars on using statistical and geospatial information;

- International Energy Agency – climate change-related statistics;

- Paris21 – capacity building, statistics for SDGs, climate change-related statistics;

- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) – managerial and strategic issues of official statistics;

- Data Documentation Initiative – development and integration of standards for modernization of official statistics.

- Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) – hazardous events and disasters, statistics for SDGs

Academia

- University of Oxford's Poverty and Human Development Initiative (UK) – work on poverty measurement;

- Bennet Institute for Public Policy, University of Cambridge (UK) – climate change-related statistics;

- United Nations University – waste statistics;

- University of Geneva – business registers and globalisation;

- Deakin University (Australia), Delft Technical University, VITO research (Belgium), Acadia University (Canada), University of Ottawa (Canada), Universitat Rovira i Virgili (Spain), University of Cardiff (UK), University of Edinburgh (UK), University of Oklahoma (USA), IT Center for Science (Finland), privacy Analytics (Canada), Sarus and Knexus Research (USA) – various projects and activities related to modernization of official statistics;

Annex I

Key deliverables and events of Conference of European Statisticians and its secretariat

I. Key outputs

Table 1
Key outputs of the Conference of European Statisticians in 2021

Title	Year
Framework on Waste Statistics	2021
Guidelines on Assessing the Quality of Administrative Sources for Use in Censuses	2021
Second edition of the Road Map for Statistics on SDGs	2021
Approaches to Measuring Social Exclusion	2021
Guide on producing CPI under lockdown	2021

II. Key events

Table 2.
Key events of the Conference of European Statisticians from January to December 2021

The meetings took place online, unless otherwise indicated.

Jointly with	Meeting (venue)	Date
	CES Bureau meeting	17-18 February
OECD	Joint Seminar on SEEA Implementation	9-11 March
	Workshop on Measuring Informal Economy	22-26 March
	Joint Workshop on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information	24 March
	Workshop on Measuring Poverty in Pandemic Times	25-26 March
UNSD	Fifth Workshop on Statistics for SDGs	29 March-1 April
	Fifth Expert Meeting on Statistics for SDGs	29 March-1 April
OECD, Eurostat	Group of Experts on National Accounts	17-26 May
	Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses	19-20 May
	Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices	2-10 June
	Expert Forum on measuring hazardous events and disasters	7, 8, 10 June
	69th Plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (hybrid, Geneva, Switzerland)	23-25 June
	Expert Forum for Users and Producers of Climate Change-related Statistics	31 August-3 September
	Group of Experts on Gender Statistics	28-29 September
	Joint High-Level Seminar for EECCA Countries	23-24 September
	Expert Meeting on Statistical Data Collection	27-30 September
	Expert Meeting on Dissemination and Communication of Statistics	11-14 October
	CES Bureau meeting	13-14 October
Environment Division	Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (hybrid, Geneva, Switzerland)	18-19 October
	Workshop on Measuring Migration and Remittances	26 October

Eurostat	Group of Experts on Migration Statistics	27-28 October
ILO	Group of Experts on Quality of Employment	9-18 November
	Workshop on Modernization of Official Statistics	15-16 November
	Expert Meeting on Modernization of Statistical Legislation	18-19 November
	Workshop on harmonization of poverty statistics to measure SDG 1 and 10	30 November
	Group of Experts on Measuring Poverty and Inequality	1-2 December
	Expert Meeting on Statistical Data Confidentiality (Poznan, Poland)	1-3 December

III. Key projects implemented under the Conference of European Statisticians in 2021

A. Programme on Statistics and Data – funded by UNDA 10th tranche

Areas: Means of implementation; Environmental pillar; Social and demographic pillar; Economic pillar.

Objective: To strengthen the statistical capacity of developing countries to measure, monitor and report on the sustainable development goals in an accurate, reliable and timely manner for evidence-based policymaking.

Duration: 2016 – March 2021

B. Enhancing coherence and integration of economic and social statistics in support of the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts – funded by the World Bank ECASTAT project

Objective: To increase the capacity of countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in compiling national accounts and supporting statistics according to the recommendations of international statistical standards.

Target group and beneficiaries: National statistical offices, ministries of finance and central banks producing and using macroeconomic statistics in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Duration: 2017 – 2022

B. Strengthening statistical capacity of the CIS countries for providing high quality statistics and indicators to monitor progress towards SDGs – funded by the Russian Federation

Objective: to strengthen statistical capacity of CIS countries to provide high quality statistics and indicators to monitor progress towards SDGs, focusing on environmental statistics.

Target group and beneficiaries: National statistical offices and government agencies working on statistics for SDGs in the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Duration: 2019 – June 2023

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