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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Seventieth plenary session

Geneva, 20-22 June 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventieth plenary session

The plenary session will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland starting at 10:30 on Monday, 20 June 2022.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
2. Thirtieth anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
3. Core values of official statistics and their mapping with Fundamental Principles.
4. Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region:
 - (a) Outcomes of the recent in-depth reviews carried out by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians;
 - (b) Discussion on subjective poverty measures.
5. Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics.
6. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference:
 - (a) Measuring the value of official statistics;
 - (b) Statistics on children;
 - (c) Forms of employment;
 - (d) Use of new data sources for measuring migration and cross-border mobility;
 - (e) Measuring the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and men;
 - (f) Classification of Statistical Activities (CSA).
7. Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:
 - (a) Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists;



- (b) Matters arising from the fifty-third session of the United Nations Statistical Commission;
 - (c) Programme planning documents for the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
8. Topics of common interest to statistical and geospatial communities – joint session with the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe (UN-GGIM: Europe):
- (a) Strategic directions in official statistics and in geospatial work;
 - (b) Moving online in mapping, data and statistics services;
 - (c) Future work and future workplace – post-Covid-19 working modalities;
 - (d) Developments in data stewardship.
9. Collaboration with private data providers:
- (a) Collaboration with private data providers at national level;
 - (b) Collaboration with private data providers at international level.
10. Other business.
11. Closing of the meeting.

II. Annotations to agenda items

The seventieth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) will take place on 20-22 June 2022 in Geneva. It will convene in accordance with the *Rules Governing the Work of the Conference and its Bureau* (CES/2019/2). The meeting will be held in a hybrid format, allowing both physical presence and providing an online connection. It will have simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian.

Agenda item 8 will be considered during a joint day with the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe (UN-GGIM: Europe) on 21 June.

The meeting timetable will be made available on the CES website (<https://unece.org/statistics/events/CES2022>). Information about the online platform and connection details will be sent to registered participants a few weeks before the plenary session.

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the CES Bureau at its February 2022 meeting. The provisional agenda is presented for the approval of the Conference.

2. Thirtieth anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics – *for discussion and recommendations*

The session will mark the 30 years of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS). It will take stock of how national statistical offices (NSOs) have been implementing the Principles over the years focusing on practical experience from countries. The session will also increase awareness of international cooperation in official statistics and of the contribution of NSOs to the global development of official statistics.

3. Core values of official statistics and their mapping with Fundamental Principles – for decision

The session will be based on the outcomes of the work of a Task Team on core values of official statistics. The Task Team was created as a follow-up to the 2021 CES session on how national statistical systems adhere to the core values of official statistics. Its aim is to elaborate a list of core values of official statistics, map them with FPOS, and define the behaviours that support the core values and implementation of the Fundamental Principles.

The CES Bureau reviewed in February 2022 the draft *List of core values and their mapping with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics* developed by the Task Team, and asked the Secretariat to circulate the document to all CES members for an electronic consultation. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the CES plenary session will be invited to endorse the document (ECE/CES/2022/2).

4. Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

(a) Outcomes of the recent in-depth reviews carried out by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians - for decision

The Conference will be invited to approve the outcomes of the three in-depth reviews carried out by the CES Bureau since the previous CES plenary session (“Subjective poverty measures” and “Measuring non-observed/informal economy” in October 2021, and “Collaboration with private data providers” in February 2022). These reviews are important tools of coordination to address emerging issues and identify gaps or duplication of work. The reviews focus on strategic issues and highlight concerns of statistical offices of both a conceptual and a coordinating nature.

(b) Discussion on subjective poverty measures – for discussion and recommendations

The Conference usually discusses one of the in-depth review topics more in detail to collect input for further work. This time the discussion will focus on measuring subjective poverty, based on an in-depth review paper prepared by Poland. As a result of the review, the Bureau established a Task Force to develop a guide on measuring subjective poverty and a set of subjective poverty indicators that could be used for international comparison. The CES discussion will provide input for the work of the Task Force.

5. Work of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics – for decision

The High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) was set up to guide strategic developments in the ways official statistics are produced. The Conference has expressed strong support for the work, endorsed the vision and the strategy for modernizing official statistics, and asked HLG-MOS to present annual reports to the CES plenary session.

HLG-MOS will submit its annual report to the Conference for approval and inform about its recent products in the area of statistical modernisation. HLG-MOS will also inform about its plans for further work.

6. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference

Seven documents are planned to be submitted to the 2022 CES plenary session for information or endorsement (one of them, the *List of core values and their mapping with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics* is considered under agenda item 3).

(a) Measuring the value of official statistics – for decision

In June 2019, the CES Bureau established a Task Force to test and further develop the framework for measuring the value of official statistics, as a follow-up to the *Recommendations for promoting, measuring and communicating the value of official statistics* that CES endorsed in 2017.

In October 2021, the CES Bureau reviewed the draft document *Measuring the value of official statistics* and decided that it can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the document (ECE/CES/2022/3) will be submitted to the 2022 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(b) Statistics on children – for decision

The Bureau set up a Task Force on statistics on children, adolescents and youth in February 2020 to provide an overview of existing definitions, standards and methods, and prepare recommendations for statistical offices and future international work.

In February 2022, the CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Guidance on statistics on children: Spotlight on children exposed to violence, in alternative care, and with a disability*, and decided that it can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Guidance (ECE/CES/2022/4) will be submitted to the 2022 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(c) Forms of employment – for decision

The Bureau established a Task Force on forms of employment in July 2021 to develop a conceptual framework to assist countries in producing relevant, coherent and internationally comparable statistics on forms of employment.

In February 2022, the CES Bureau reviewed the draft *Handbook on forms of employment* and decided that it can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Handbook (ECE/CES/2022/5) will be submitted to the 2022 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(d) Use of new data sources for measuring migration and cross-border mobility – for decision

The Bureau established in February 2020 a Task Force to provide guidance for national statistical offices on using new data sources for measuring migration and cross-border mobility.

In February 2022, the CES Bureau reviewed the draft report on the *Use of new data sources for measuring international migration* and decided that it can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the report (ECE/CES/2022/6) will be submitted to the 2022 CES plenary session for endorsement.

(e) Measuring the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and men – for information

The Bureau reviewed in October 2021 the *Guidance on measuring the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and men* prepared by the Steering Group on Gender Statistics. The Bureau decided to present the Guidance (ECE/CES/2022/7) to the 2022 CES plenary session for information to promote its use.

(f) Classification of Statistical Activities (CSA) – for decision

The CES Bureau is the custodian of the Classification of Statistical Activities, which was initially established in 2005 and has become a global reference for many organizations. In February 2020, the Bureau launched a procedure to update the Classification by a dedicated Task Team.

In February 2022, the CES Bureau reviewed the draft revised *Classification of Statistical Activities* and decided that it can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Classification (ECE/CES/2022/8) will be submitted to the 2022 CES plenary session for endorsement.

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

(a) Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists – for decision

The Conference will be invited to approve the reports related to the UNECE statistical work programme as follows:

(i) Report on the implementation of the UNECE Statistical Programme in 2021 (ECE/CES/2022/14);

(ii) Reports of the CES Bureau meetings, progress reports of Teams of Specialists (Steering Groups and Task Forces) and reports of expert meetings (ECE/CES/2022/14 Addenda);

(iii) Annual report of the Regional UN Coordination Group for Data and Statistics in Europe and Central Asia (ECE/CES/2022/13).

(b) Matters arising from the fifty-third session of the United Nations Statistical Commission – for information

The Conference will be informed about the implications of the decisions of the UN Statistical Commission on the work of Conference.

(c) Programme planning documents for the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe – for decision

The Conference will be invited to review and adopt the official planning documents of the Statistics subprogramme prepared in the context of the United Nations Secretariat's planning and reporting cycle:

(i) UNECE Statistical Programme for 2022 (ECE/CES/2022/15, approved by the CES Bureau in October 2021). The document is in line with the Programme of Work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2022 (ECE/CES/2021/16), adopted by the Conference in June 2021;

(ii) Programme of Work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2023, including publications programme and a list of meetings (ECE/CES/2022/16 and 16/Add.1). The programme of work follows the format introduced in 2020 in line with the General Assembly resolutions 72/266, with enrichments reflecting General Assembly resolutions 74/251, 75/243 and 76/245. It is based on the draft programme narrative of the subprogramme for 2023 which was reviewed by the UNECE Executive Committee in December 2021 as part of the UNECE proposed programme budget for 2023 and submitted for consideration by the 77th session of the General Assembly.

The Conference will be also invited to review the Outline of key components of the UNECE statistics subprogramme for 2024 (ECE/CES/2022/INF.1) and provide recommendations on these components, as appropriate.

8. Topics of common interest to statistical and geospatial communities – joint session with the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe (UN-GGIM: Europe)

(a) Strategic directions in official statistics and in geospatial work

This session will include presentations from both communities on strategies and expected future trends, followed by an open discussion to identify opportunities for further collaboration.

(b) Moving online in mapping, data and statistics services

This session will consider how the Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the move towards online mapping, data and statistics services, giving participants the opportunity to share experiences and expectations.

(c) Future work and future workplace – post-Covid-19 working modalities

The session will provide an opportunity to the Heads of statistical offices and geospatial agencies to discuss the strategic issues related to new working arrangements after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The session will be forward-looking discussing challenges in managing staff and their expectations and exploring new possibilities in terms working practices. It will consider:

- How to balance competing needs of flexibility, culture retention, and efficiency?
- What are the lasting effects of hybrid working modalities on the work of different offices?
- How to become organizations that are virtual by design?

(d) Developments in data stewardship

This session will consider the latest developments in the move towards cross-government data management, as well as the real and expected implications, challenges and collaboration opportunities for statistical and geospatial agencies in this area. The session will be informed by a draft report by the CES Task Force on data stewardship aiming to define data stewardship and identify a set of possible responsibilities of data stewards (ECE/CES/2022/20).

9. Collaboration with private data providers

The aim of the session is to give an overview of the main issues and challenges related to collaborating with private data providers, exchange experience, and identify possible future actions at international level to support countries in using privately held data for producing official statistics.

(a) Collaboration with private data providers at national level

The first part of the session will be chaired by Juan Manuel Rodríguez Poo (Spain). It will address the following questions:

- What is needed for successful collaboration with private data providers and how can the legislation and administrative regulations facilitate private data access?
- How to create trust and culture of data sharing? What safeguards are needed?
- What models of private data access are most successful and what are their advantages and disadvantages? What approaches can be used to recover the costs and how to ensure sustainability of private data access?
- What are the technical challenges and existing or emerging solutions? How to ensure sufficient quality of privately held data?
- What does providing access mean for data providers? How to successfully negotiate with private data holders?

(b) Collaboration with private data providers at international level

The second part of the session will be chaired by Anil Arora (Canada). It will focus on the role and initiatives of international organizations in collaborating with private data providers, considering two aspects:

- Facilitating access for countries to privately held data e.g., by approaching and negotiating with multinational companies;
- Initiatives for access to privately held data for international organizations' purposes.

10. Other business

Any additional issues that the Conference needs to be informed of can be taken up under this agenda item.

11. Closing of the meeting

The decisions concerning individual agenda items will be adopted at the end of the relevant agenda items. A detailed report will be prepared after the Conference and will be sent for comments to all participants. The finalized report will be translated into French and Russian.
