I. BACKGROUND

1. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) renewed the mandate of the Steering Group on statistics for SDGs in October 2019 with the aim to prepare a Second Edition of the ‘Road Map on statistics for SDGs’, and to coordinate and guide the work of the Conference of European Statisticians in this area. The terms of reference of the Steering Group were planned to be reviewed in 2022.

2. The CES Bureau approved the updated Terms of Reference of the Steering Group and extended its mandate until 2027.

The CES Bureau renewed the mandate of the Steering Group on statistics for SDGs in October 2019 with the aim to prepare a Second Edition of the ‘Road Map on statistics for SDGs’, and to coordinate and guide the work of the Conference of European Statisticians in this area. The terms of reference of the Steering Group were planned to be reviewed in 2022.

3. In June 2021 the Conference endorsed the Second Edition of the Road Map and supported further work to help countries implement the Road Map, with special attention to (i) automating data transmission, and (ii) ‘leaving no-one behind’ – how to account for vulnerable groups, and integrate data from different sources taking into account the associated risks.

4. The Conference also noted that, if deemed necessary, preparation of a third edition of the Road Map could be considered to reflect continuing developments, including the impact of Covid-19 on progress towards SDGs.

5. Furthermore, several ongoing global and regional processes related to the implementation of SDGs call for action at UNECE regional level, such as:

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1 Referring to A/RES/70/1, the term ‘regional’ is used to denote regions of the world, such as the UNECE region.
(a) Regional input to the work of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development that has a central role in overseeing the processes at the global level.
(b) Input to the annual UNECE Regional Fora on Sustainable Development that lead the review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the UNECE region focusing on practical value-added and peer learning.
(c) Input to the Interagency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs).
(d) Input to the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB), and the Cape Town Global Action Plan.

6. Support from the Steering Group is continuously required to help coordinate and guide the regional input to these processes.

II. MANDATE

7. The work of the Steering Group is conducted within the CES work programme. It will provide regular reports to the CES and its Bureau.

8. The work of the Steering Group will reflect the work of the HLG-PCCB and IAEG-SDGs, operating under the UN Statistical Commission, to provide a link with the developments at the global level. It will take into account the guidance given by the UN Secretary General on the global follow-up and review process.

9. The Steering Group may identify opportunities to brief the UNECE Executive Committee and other relevant regional policy bodies to ensure that the work and products of the CES relating to SDGs fully reflect the policy priorities of the UNECE region. Communication with all relevant stakeholders (including the policy community) will be crucial.

10. The Steering Group may identify concrete tasks or activities to support its work that could be undertaken by groups of experts (Task Forces or Task Teams). In such cases, after having verified the interest by a sufficient number of CES member countries and the availability of resources, the Steering Group will submit proposals for Task Forces to the CES Bureau for review and approval.

III. OBJECTIVE

11. The Steering Group will guide and coordinate the CES work on statistics for SDGs. Its mission is to be a key resource providing guidance to countries on statistical follow-up to the 2030 Agenda through numerous vehicles, including meetings, workshops, guidelines, tools, websites and international collaboration. The Steering Group aims to play a pioneering role by identifying emerging issues and strategic topics for the future.

IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

12. The main activities of the Steering Group in 2023-2027 will be:

(a) Providing guidance and tools to support the implementation of the CES Road Map on statistics for SDGs in countries; following up on the implementation of the Road Map;
(b) Overseeing the work of task forces and task teams set up by the Steering Group;
(c) Creating and disseminating promotional materials for the second edition of the Road Map;
(d) Organizing the annual Expert Group Meetings and workshops on Statistics for SDGs;
(e) Advising UNECE on statistical capacity development activities for monitoring SDGs;
(f) Maintaining a knowledge hub on statistics for SDGs.

V. TIMETABLE

13. The Steering Group will prepare annual work plans. The CES Bureau will review the terms of reference of the Steering Group in 2027.

VI. METHODS OF WORK

14. The Steering Group will primarily work via email, wiki workspace and telephone conferences. Face-to-face meetings may be organized once a year. Additional meetings may be organized at events attended by a significant number of Steering Group members, such as the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians, UN Statistical Commission, or other meetings.

15. Members of the Steering Group are expected to contribute actively to the work and provide ideas for future activities. Co-chairs are elected by the Steering Group.

16. The Steering Groups is complemented by a Friends Network where all interested countries and organizations can join. The network will provide an opportunity for its members to stay informed and contribute to the work by joining Task Forces and Task Teams. Members of the Friends Network can participate in extended Steering Group teleconferences that will be organized on a quarterly basis. Countries wishing to become members of the Friends Network can contact the Secretariat (martijn.kind@un.org).

VII. MEMBERSHIP

17. Poland (co-chair), Sweden (co-chair), Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Montenegro, Netherlands, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States and EEA. CIS-Stat, Eurostat and OECD are permanent observers on the Steering Group.

18. UNECE acts as Secretariat to the Steering Group.

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