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Item 4(a) of the provisional agenda

**Meeting with the Chair of the
Conference of European Statisticians**

Report by the Chair

(for information)

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 126th meeting of EXCOM on 13 January 2023.

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 2022, and the major activities planned for 2023 and beyond. More information is contained in the report of the seventieth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians held on 20–22 June 2022 in Geneva (document ECE/CES/103). A detailed description of the activities planned for 2023 is provided in the Statistical Programme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) 2023 (document ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/10).

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 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 stakeholders have now higher expectations and demand 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. Many statistical offices are taking on a data stewardship role to promote the use and re-use of high-

quality data as a strategic asset. 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 Covid-19 pandemic accelerated 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 2022, the Bureau of the Conference reviewed in-depth two statistical areas: (i) collaboration with private data providers and (ii) data ethics, 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 and older in-depth review papers are available on the UNECE website.

11.   Obtaining sustainable access to data held by the private sector for purposes of official statistics is a key emerging issue for national statistical offices. In line with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, official statistics are an indispensable element in the information system of democratic societies. In today's rapidly changing society, collecting primary data from persons, households, businesses and institutions is associated with increasing challenges. At the same time, data generated by the private sector as part of its business have great potential for purposes of official statistics, enabling the delivery of more timely and relevant statistics amid the rapidly changing socio-economic environment and users' needs, increasing efficiency of statistical production, and reducing respondent burden.

12.   Given this, the 2022 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians called upon national governments and relevant ministries to support national statistical offices in their key coordinating role in the access to data held by the private sector for official statistical purposes. It called also upon international organizations to coordinate strategically the work undertaken by different international bodies dealing with the access to data held by the private sector to achieve greater specialization, more efficient use of human and financial resources, and wider dissemination of the results, as well as to support national statistical offices in their efforts to collaborate with the private sector[a].

13.   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. In 2022, a second joint plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians and UN-GGIM: Europe took place, which requested the secretariats to continue the current collaboration in areas of mutual strategic importance for the statistical and geospatial communities, including the preparation of an extension to the current collaboration agreement beyond the end of 2022 and organizing another joint plenary session in 2024.

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[a] ECE/CES/103/Add.1

14.   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.

B.   New methodological guidelines and recommendations

15.   In 2022, 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 2022:

(a)   *Measuring of the value of official statistics* proposes a technique for identifying the components that make up the value of official statistics and for developing measurable indicators based on these components. The report reviews potential measures of value and showcases a diverse array of case studies of countries' efforts to quantify aspects of value*;*

(b)   *Guidance on Statistics on Children: Spotlight on children exposed to violence, in alternative care, and with a disability* provides information about the data sources, definitions, standards and methods used in the collection of data and production of statistics on children, adolescents and youth. The Guidance focuses on three policy-relevant areas with methodological gaps: violence against children, children in alternative care, and children with a disability;

(c)   *Handbook on forms of employment* proposes a conceptual framework that identifies and maps the relationships between concepts essential for measuring and identifying new and established forms of employment;

(d)   *Use of new data sources for measuring international migration* presents national experiences with big data and new data sources. The report is accompanied by a literature database containing references of published works in migration-related matters using innovative methods and/or new data sources;

16.   *Guidance on measuring the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and men* was developed to provide practical guidance for data producers in measuring the ongoing and longer-term gendered impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. It includes proposed indicators and survey questions and advice on the key methodological considerations for data collection and dissemination.

17.   In 2022, a revised *Classification of Statistical Activities* developed under CES was reviewed and endorsed by the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications, which recommended it for approval by the United Nations Statistical Commission as an international standard. The revised Classification is already used by the Committee to organize the classifications of the International Family of Classification on the web.

C.   Thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

18.   2022 marked 30 years since the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics were first developed and adopted at the policy level by UNECE. In 1994, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted these principles at the global level. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) endorsed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics at policy level in 2013. In January 2014, they were adopted by the UN General Assembly.

19.   As a global standard, the Principles underlie everything that the producers of official statistics do from the methods for collecting, processing and storing data to the ways how statistical offices disseminate statistics and communicate with those who use them. The Principles ensure independence from political influence and the right and duty to publicly correct misuse or misinterpretation of statistics. The Principles safeguard the trustworthiness of official statistics, enabling them to play a unique role as a public good that underpins sustainable development and democracy. Thirty years on, the Principles remain a collective manifesto for serving society with impartial, relevant and accurate information to guide decisions.

20.   Wishing to mark this important milestone and to celebrate the origin of the Principles in the UNECE region, the CES Bureau called upon the secretariat to coordinate a communications campaign. The campaign aimed to focus the attention of the general public, users of statistics and even producers of official statistics on the continued importance of the Principles, showing how and why each of them matters to everyday life. The campaign consisted of the following main strands:

        (a)   Ten campaigns corresponding to the ten Principles, each led by one to three countries and open to contributions from all other countries and organizations;

        (b)   A video produced by Poland combining contributions from many countries, launched on the first day of the 70th CES plenary session in June 2022;

        (c)   Video statements by high-level users and stakeholders, aired at the 70th CES plenary session;

        (d)   A visual identity including logo, imagery, fonts, colour scheme, PowerPoint slides backgrounds and banners for social media sites (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn etc.) provided by Ireland, designed to bring coherence to the many different contributions;

        (e)   Conventional and social media campaigns anchored in a series of short texts written by the secretariat.

        (f)   A microsite bringing together highlights of developed materials (available in English with French, Russian and Spanish versions to follow in due course).

21.   Details of the leaders and content of the mini campaigns and other activities can be found in document ECE/CES/2022/17 presented to the Conference at its 70th plenary session in June 2022. During this meeting a session was held to mark the anniversary, showcasing many of the materials produced by countries and giving CES members the opportunity to comment on the role and future of the Principles.

22.   To date the campaign has resulted in more than 330 original posts on social media and translation of the anniversary logo into 15 languages (Armenian, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, te reo Māori, Polish, Spanish, Romanian, Russian).

D.   Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals

23.   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 2nd edition of the CES *Road Map on Statistics for SDGs*, finalized in 2021, guides this work in countries, reflecting new information, lessons learned and emerging challenges.

24.   In 2022, 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 the SDG indicators used in the UNECE regional progress assessment. 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.

25.   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 2022 report, entitled *"Halfway to 2030: How many targets will be achieved in the UNECE region?"*, provides a progress assessment identifying targets on which the overall progress in the region was good and the few areas where the course needs to be reversed. The report also takes a look at progress in gender equality – a contribution by UN Women – and presents stories and insights contributed by other agencies and United Nations country teams in the region. Anchored in data, the insights from these stories illustrate how change can be achieved.

III.   Major activities planned for 2023 and beyond

26.   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.

27.   Learning from the experiences with online meetings during the Covid-19 restrictions, CES and the UNECE Secretariat will continue to combine traditional and new approaches to organising meetings. Due to budget restrictions, the regular meetings will take place in person. These will be alternated with online meetings as needed to make the best use of the advantages of the digital communication platforms and provide efficient support to countries.

28.   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 2023, the plenary session will discuss data ethics and social acceptability of the work of NSOs** in the context of their changing role in data ecosystems, measuring well-being and measuring circular economy.

29.   **Cooperation with the geospatial communities** will continue to better integrate statistical and geospatial data. In September 2022, a project "Supporting the integration of geospatial and statistical data across the UNECE region" financed mainly by a grant from Eurostat was started. The project aims to "foster stronger links between the statistical and geospatial communities across the UNECE region, facilitate greater collaboration and encourage greater integration of geospatial and statistical information by promoting stronger institutional partnerships and the use of common standards". It will support existing Eurostat and joint activities to strengthen the integration of statistical and geospatial data in target countries. Capacity development activities will be conducted in partnership with key partners in this area, particularly Eurostat and UN-GGIM: Europe. A joint workshop is planned to take place in 2023.

A.   Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals

30.   The statistical work of UNECE encompasses all SDGs, supporting national statistical offices to facilitate country-led reporting of statistics for SDGs. In 2023, work will continue

to enhance the **UNECE regional platform for data on SDG indicators** launched in 2020. UNECE will also maintain the *knowledge hub on statistics for SDGs* where more detailed information about its work in this area, as well as useful resources for experts, is available.

31.   In 2021 the Conference endorsed a 2nd edition of its flagship publication, the *CES Road Map on Statistics for SDGs* that is widely used by countries and international organizations. In 2023 the focus will be on supporting countries in implementing the second edition of the Road Map. UNECE work in this area is steered and coordinated through the CES Steering Group on statistics for SDGs that establishes priorities and identifies concrete actions and tools that can support countries in this area.

32.   Under the Steering Group, a matrix was prepared as **a self-assessment tool** for statistical offices **to identify their needs and priorities for capacity development**. The matrix will be improved based on pilot testing in some countries (from both recipient and donor side of capacity development), extending its use to other producers in the statistical system.

33.   It is planned to **pilot automatic data transmission to the UNSD DataLab** and use the results to compare the data provided by countries and data provided by international organizations responsible for selected SDG indicators. Communication materials will be prepared to promote the use of the Road Map and statistical work on SDGs more widely. Webinars may be organised focusing on specific areas of interest related to statistics for SDGs, such as taxonomy of SDG indicators, communication with policy makers, and other topics.

34.   In 2020, UNECE launched its **regional platform for data on SDG indicators**, which consists of a dashboard and database of selected SDG indicators in English and Russian. In 2023, the dashboard and database will be further enhanced and their coverage of indicators expanded.

35.   Since 2020, the Statistical Division is preparing an annual **report on progress with SDGs**. Using internationally available data and an advanced statistical methodology commonly used by all five United Nations regional commissions, the 2023 report will assess the UNECE region's progress towards the goals and targets. It will be prepared in cooperation with the agencies and country teams represented in the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia.

36.   The Statistical Division also undertakes 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, globalization and well-being

37.   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 SDG indicators, including those with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the denominator. UNECE will also contribute to Beyond GDP initiative. The main priority areas for 2023 include measuring economic growth, well-being and sustainability; globalization; digitalization; informal economy, statistical business registers; quality of employment, new forms of employment; and price statistics.

38.   UNECE promotes the **implementation and update of the 2008 System of National Accounts** (2008 SNA) to enable the provision of high-quality data for economic analysis and policies. The meetings of the Group of Experts on National Accounts (organized jointly with Eurostat and OECD) will inform countries of the progress towards 2025 SNA, seek feedback and facilitate 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 Beyond GDP initiative, measuring SDGs and post-Covid recovery will be also addressed by the Group.

39.　UNECE will continue to support implementation of the SNA and consultation and testing of the SNA Update recommendations in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-East Europe (SEE) in cooperation with other regional partners. A special session for EECCA and SEE countries will be organized in 2023 to ensure the involvement of the countries in the consultation and testing of the SNA Update recommendations that are most relevant for this region.

40.　Better measures are needed to link economic development to broader framework of measuring well-being and sustainability. UNECE has published several Guides to help countries construct internationally comparable statistics on human capital, unpaid household service work and education and training. These will become part of the Updated SNA. In 2023, UNECE continues to facilitate the implementation of these Guides.

41.　In 2021 UNECE has launched an online inventory of **satellite accounts** produced by countries to facilitate sharing experience and best practice. In 2023 UNECE will again 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.

42.　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). In 2021, UNECE published the *Guide to Sharing Economic Data in Official Statistics*. In 2023, UNECE will promote the implementation of the Guides 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.

43.　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 Network of Economic Statisticians; the Integrated Global Accounts project of Eurostat, and various OECD expert groups.

44.　UNECE, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), Eurostat, IMF, OECD and other partners, promotes the implementation of international recommendations on the **Consumer Price Index** (CPI). CPI plays an important role in policymaking and is widely used for indexation of wages, pensions and social security allowances. Work in 2023 will follow up on the *Guide on producing CPI under lockdown* (2021) to assist countries in compiling CPI during and after lockdown periods. The 2023 biennial meeting of the Group of Experts on CPI will discuss new data sources (scanner data and web scraped data), expenditure weights in the CPI, quality adjustment methods, CPIs for different groups of households, and the role of CPI in measuring the digital economy and well-being.

45.　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 supports 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 2023, UNECE will address particular challenges in EECCA countries, explore possible links with employment statistics and begin the preparation of the biennial meeting of the Group of Experts on Business Registers in 2024, jointly with Eurostat and OECD.

46.　UNECE, jointly with Eurostat, ILO and OECD, contributes to the international work on **measuring quality of employment** responding to the demand for data on the qualitative aspects of employment beyond traditional labour force statistics. The Steering Group on

Quality of Employment will propose amendments for updating the *Handbook on Measuring the Quality of Employment* (UNECE, 2015) to reflect revisions of ILO standards, country experiences and emerging issues. In 2023, UNECE will begin the preparation of the biennial meeting of the Group of Experts on Measuring Quality of Employment in early 2024.

47.   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 has been 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. In response to these, the *Handbook on Forms of Employment* was developed and endorsed by CES in June 2022 to assist countries in producing relevant, coherent and internationally comparable statistics on forms of employment. The Handbook provides a conceptual framework which guides countries in classifying, measuring and tracking diverse forms of employment relevant to their national contexts. In 2023, UNECE will continue work on conceptual issues, measurement challenges, and sharing of country experiences in this area.

C.   Population and migration, gender, poverty and inequality

48.   There is an increasing policy demand for data on people's well-being, social environment and demographic change. The work in 2023 will focus on poverty and inequality, migration, gender and population and housing 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. In February 2023, the CES Bureau will conduct an in-depth review of the measurement of hard-to-reach population groups in administrative sources.

49.   UNECE supports countries in preparing for, conducting, processing and disseminating data from their **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.

50.   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 had profound impacts on censuses of the 2020 round. Many of the censuses scheduled for 2020 or 2021 experienced delays up to several years. While most are now complete, countries continue to face challenges in processing data that were collected under changed circumstances, and in interpreting the results. The pandemic triggered changes in methods, including accelerating some pre-existing trends, and countries are now reflecting on how they can harness the positive aspects of these changes to increase efficiency for future census-taking. Taking into account these challenges and developments, in 2022 thirteen task forces under the CES Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses embarked on a multi-year effort to develop the *CES Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses of the 2030 Round*. In 2023 they will develop, among other tasks, a comprehensive survey of national practices in censuses of the 2020 round. An expert meeting and capacity development workshop in September 2023 will provide an opportunity for the task forces to present their progress to the entire community of census experts, engaging them to tackle any challenges brought to light during the work.

51.   UNECE promotes exchange of experience and methodological work on **measuring poverty and inequality**. Measuring progress towards SDGs on the reduction of poverty

(Goal 1) and inequality (Goal 10) requires a comparable, multidimensional and coherent set of indicators. In 2023, UNECE will hold an expert meeting to advance the methodological work on the additional needs on measuring poverty and inequality in the context of global shocks. Focus on timely provision of statistics and sharing best practices on developing complementary measures such as subjective poverty measures would support governments' policy response to strengthen 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 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, 2022).

52.   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 2023 meeting of the Group of Experts on Migration Statistics will discuss use of administrative data and new data sources for measuring migration, results from the 2020 population census round on migration data, issues on measuring large flows of refugees and undocumented migrants. 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.

53.   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 2023, the UNECE Group of Experts on Gender Statistics will follow up on the implementation of *its Guidance on measuring the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and men,* 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* and *Guidance on Communicating Gender Statistics*.

54.   In 2022, the UNECE Task Force on **Statistics on children, adolescents and youth** published guidance that provides recommendations for more harmonized definitions, methodologies and approaches across the countries participating in the CES. The Guidance addresses statistics on children and youth generally, and also focuses on three topics: (a) violence against children; (b) children in alternative care; and (c) children with disabilities. In 2023, UNECE will promote the national application of the Guidance and continue methodological work including through the exchange of national experiences and best practices and structured collaboration among international organizations producing statistics on children.

D.   Environment, climate change and hazardous events and disasters

55.   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 2023 will include:

- climate change-related statistics and indicators

- environment statistics

- the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

- statistics related to hazardous events and disasters (including the Covid-19 pandemic) and

- measuring circular economy

56.   Among the three pillars of sustainable development – economy, society and environment – data availability for the environmental pillar is the lowest. 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 (CEP) 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.

57.   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 2023 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 and South-eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

58.   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 UNECE annual Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change related statistics provides a platform for collaborating, sharing ideas and experience, discussing concepts and measurement issues, and identifying areas where practical guidance is needed. In 2023, a dedicated Task Force will be developing guidance on the role of NSOs in achieving national climate objectives, namely the reporting under the Paris Agreement, meeting information needs of national policymaking in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation, and informing the public about climate-related issues. The UNECE Steering Group 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", and 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.

59.   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 UNECE Statistical Division in collaboration with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics (IAEG-DRS), organised the first global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics and continues to contribute to these Fora that have now become annual. Their aim is to improve official statistics for better managing and monitoring disaster risk and to take into account the data-related lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic. Building on the *Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters* (UNECE, 2019),

the work will continue in 2023 on statistical operationalization of the new hazard definition and classification presented in the *UNDRR/ISC Sendai Hazard Definition and Classification Review Technical Report.* In 2023 a dedicated Task Force will finalise a set of core disaster-related statistics and develop practical implementation guidelines for national statistical systems.

60.   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. A Task Force is drafting guidelines on measuring circular economy, covering the key terms and definitions, key statistics, indicators and data sources (with a particular attention on SEEA and Framework for Development of Environmental Statistics) and the required institutional collaboration. The work is expected to conclude in June 2023.

E.   Strategic and managerial issues of official statistics

61.   The first Fundamental Principle 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 17).

62.   In this context, UNECE is supporting a group of senior international experts to define the **core values of official statistics**, map them to the Fundamental Principles, and describe the behaviours that demonstrate how the core values and Fundamental Principles are upheld in practice. The description of core values and behaviours will be finalised by June 2023.

63.   The rapidly expanding and evolving landscape of data production and sharing is forcing NSOs to reconsider their position and role in the national data ecosystem. A term often used to denote this changing role is '**data stewardship**'. A Task Force is working to move towards a common understanding of this term, and facilitate the work of NSOs in adapting their role to the changing situation. A report will be finalised in 2023 that describes the competencies and capabilities that NSOs can offer to contribute to better governance of data in the public sector, and the role that NSOs can play in data stewardship in the national statistical system, public sector and even beyond.

64.   In 2023, 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 regulatory aspects of data access, governance and stewardship. A review and, if needed, update of the *Generic Law of Official Statistics* (GLOS) will be initiated based on the lessons learnt from the use and implementation of GLOS in more than 20 countries all over the world.

65.   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)." Following a joint CES and UN-GGIM: Europe plenary session in 2022, UNECE 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.

F.   Modernization of official statistics

66.   Producers   of official   statistics are   facing   many   challenges   and   operate in a continuously changing environment. New, timelier and more disaggregated statistical data have to be produced. The recent Covid pandemic has further increased the need for up-to-date statistics to manage as well as to measure the impact on society and the economy. The need to monitor all SDGs and to accelerate progress has led to a further increase in the demand for timely and disaggregated official statistics. 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) 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.

67.   UNECE provides the secretariat for this work, which is carried out by several Modernization Groups (Supporting Standards, Capabilities and Communication, Blue Skies Thinking Network, and since 2022, Applying Data Science and Modern Methods), through annual projects and several modernization and sprint workshops throughout the year. A series of expert meetings are also organized with an innovative focus on dissemination and communication, data collection, statistical data editing and statistical confidentiality. Due to the dynamic nature of this work, the main activities of the four Modernization Groups, as well as the topics of HLG-MOS projects for the next year are identified in an annual HLG-MOS conference by the end of the year. For 2023, the projects are expected to focus on the Data Governance Framework to Achieve Data Interoperability, phase 2 of the Meta Academy and Cloud Usage of Official Statistics.

68.   To meet the growing demand for more data with limited resources, it is important to make the production process more efficient and cost-effective. The models developed under HLG-MOS such as the *Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)*, the *Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO)*, the *Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM), Common Statistical Data Architecture (CSDA)* and the *Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA)*, aim to help statistical organizations industrialize and modernize their production systems. The models provide a common language to facilitate communications within and between organisations and conceptual frameworks to analyse the overlap of works, which consequently facilitate the development of shared services. The Supporting Standards Modernization Group supports the use of the HLG-MOS models and leads the further development to ensure the models remain relevant in the fast-changing working environment of the statistical organizations. In 2023, the Group will work on the revision of the models, the development of guidance on the use of SDMX and DDI through GSBPM, and on finalizing the core ontology for official statistics.

69.   **Applying Data Science and Modern Methods** group focuses on how to develop, implement, promote, support and facilitate the implementation of data science and modern methods needed for statistical modernization of business processes. Task Teams under the group discuss topics such as using **Artificial Intelligence** responsibly in the production of statistics, selecting different modern models and methods, and organisational aspects of implementing **Machine Learning based data editing** in statistical production.

70.   Without developing complementary skills and creating a modern flexible and agile workforce, statistical organizations are not able to increase and improve the production of statistics. The Covid-19 pandemic has made this even more apparent. The UNECE Modernization Group on Capabilities and Communication supports statistical organizations

by providing guidelines on competency profiles, training, management issues, and other aspects needed to increase their efficiency (for example lean management). The group works on emerging issues in **human resource management in statistical offices** such as social media strategies, ethical leadership, culture change and skills and capability frameworks. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic the work was refocused to crisis management, internal communication, and remote working, training and recruitment. Work in 2023 will be addressing the changes that started or were accelerated due to the pandemic such as consolidating new working arrangements, the increased role of communication, how to reach young people and organisational ethics.

71.   The field of official statistics must ensure that it remains adaptive to the changing environment and shifting landscape of challenges and opportunities. 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 2022 a core group of high-level experts discussed and assessed various emerging areas of work in modernisation of official statistics, such as statistical cloud use, digital twins, rapid survey systems and other modern IT technologies. The aim was to identify areas that had most potential to help statistical agencies confront the Covid and other crises, and meet the latest needs of policy makers, businesses and society at large. In 2023, the network will continue to identify potential new topics that are of interest for official statistics in the coming years through 'pitch-talks' and other events, and start collaborative teams to jointly embark on new areas of work.

72.   Every year UNECE supports two modernization projects. HLG-MOS selects these topics at the start of each year to ensure that they address the most urgent matters facing statistical offices. For example, in 2022 countries worked jointly on developing ways of sharing and cocreating training courses and material. The end goal is to develop a joint **Metadata Academy for the Modernisation of Official Statistics.** Another project was started on a **framework for data interoperability**. This framework will provide the ability to create, exchange and use data while preserving its meaning and context independently from given systems. The work on **Input Privacy-Preservation techniques** continued. Here countries work on developing ways to make privacy sensitive data available for analysis and for producing meaningful statistics for policy makers and the general public. New work started on developing a Data Governance for Interoperability Framework. The main goal is to produce a reference framework needed to implement a governance program focusing on data interoperability in NSOs. To continue an earlier successful Machine Learning project, a Machine Learning Community continued in 2022, supported by the UK Office for National Statistics. The projects for 2023 will only be determined at the end of 2022 or beginning of 2023.

73.   Several aspects of statistics are not domain specific. UNECE is one of the few organizations that delivers workshops in important cross-cutting areas of statistical production bringing together experts from various domains for joint work and exchange of practices. In 2023, UNECE is planning expert meetings on statistical **data collection**, **dissemination and communication**, and **data confidentiality**, and will start the preparations for the 2024 expert meeting on **data editing**.

G.   UNECE statistical database

74.   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.

75.   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.

76.   The **SDG dashboard** will be further enhanced by extending the coverage of indicators and adding new features with assessment of the UNECE region's progress towards the goals and targets. The dashboard provides quick and easy access to information on UNECE countries' progress in achieving SDGs to a broad non-specialist audience in both PC- and mobile-friendly formats in English and Russian. 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.

77.   To reduce the response burden on countries, data are collected from, or in cooperation with, other international organizations when possible. UNECE has continued its work to streamline the database activities, which has increased efficiency of data collection and facilitated timelier update and release of statistical data series. Further improvements are expected in the work related to the database maintenance, such as usage of various Python-based statistical software packages. It is expected that using the Python programming language will shorten the software development time and free human resources for design of visually attractive and easy-to-use web applications. Development of data stories rich in visual elements is a new possibility. The first such data story, on road safety, was released in July 2022. It is planned to remove technological barriers and reduce the design cost of producing data stories. Use of data science tools is a key factor in building capacity in storytelling.

78.   The database provides the source data for the report for the annual UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. 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 2023.

79.   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

80.   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.

81.   The following teams completed their work in 2022:

(a)   Task Force on forms of employment;

(b)   Task Force on statistics on children, adolescents and youth;

(c)   Task Force on new data sources for measuring migration and cross-border mobility;

(d)   Task Force to test and develop the framework for measuring the value of official statistics.

82.   The Conference endorsed the mandates of the following groups for the period 2023 - 2027:

(a)   Steering Group on statistical legislation;

(b)   Steering Group on consumer price indices;

(c)   Steering Group on statistics for SDGs;

(d)   Steering Group on measuring poverty and inequality;

(e)   Steering Group on population and housing censuses;

83.   The Conference also endorsed the Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme for 2023, as contained in documents ECE/CES/2022/16 and ECE/CES/2022/16/Add.1.

84.   The Executive Committee is invited to adopt the decisions listed in paras 82-83.

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

85.   At its June 2021 plenary session, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) considered the Commission decisions (document ECE/CES/2021/1), and took note of the decisions that have implications for its work, including continuing producing the annual SDG report (see paragraph 25) and development of a harmonized approach to measuring progress towards circular economy.

86.   The CES work on measuring circular economy, initiated in 2021, explores how to harmonize approaches for measuring circular economy and provides 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 builds upon the Waste Statistics Framework endorsed by CES in 2021. The work is planned to be completed by June 2023.

87.   The statistical work will contribute to the high-level theme of the upcoming 2023 Commission session "Digital and green transformation for sustainable development in the region of the UNECE". The work in many areas is relevant to the topic, such as statistics for SDGs, economic and environmental statistics, and statistical modernisation.

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

Statistical database

88.   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

89.   The Statistical Division acts as the UNECE focal point for the global SDG indicators and liaises with UN/DESA on related issues. In 2022, the Statistical Division contributed to the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development through preparing the annual report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UNECE region and a roundtable on Data and Statistics for Sustainable Development.

Environment

90. 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.

Climate change

91. The Statistical Division contributes with its work on climate change-related statistics to the internal UNECE Task Force on Climate Action. The UNECE Task Force brings together experts working on climate change-related issues in different UNECE divisions to improve the coordination and communication of UNECE activities in this field.

Circular economy

92. The Statistical Division contributes with its work on measuring circular economy to the internal UNECE Task Force on Circular Economy. This includes preparing a podcast in the series 'One world, zero waste: the circular economy explained', contributing to the discussion on definitions of circular economy, and to the preparation of the ECE Commission session in spring 2023.

Disaster risk reduction

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

VI. Technical cooperation activities

94. 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).

95. 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 work follows the *UNECE Statistical Capacity Development Strategy* (2018) reinforcing the principle of user driven capacity development activities.

96. 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**.

97. 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), UN Women, the World Bank, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) and other bilateral and multilateral partners.

98.   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. The Global Assessment of Turkmenistan that started in 2022 is drawing to a close in the beginning of 2023. Discussions are ongoing about the next countries to be assessed.

99.   A **United Nations Development Account project** that started in September 2022 will continue throughout 2023, in partnership with UNSD, 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.

100.   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 for the implementation of the 2008 SNA** and to support statistics in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The programme, which is scheduled to end in 2023, 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 statistical expert group meetings.

101.   The UNECE Secretariat provides **advisory services** in response to specific requests from the EECCA and SEE countries. These services include advice on specific methodological questions, provision of statistical guidance and advice on how to reach out to experts in national and international organizations in areas where the Secretariat does not have relevant expertise. For example, in 2022 such services were provided to Armenia (various modernisation models and tools), Kazakhstan (modernisation of statistical production), Turkmenistan (population censuses), Ukraine (statistical legislation, statistical surveys).

102.   UNECE chairs the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics in Europe and Central Asia (the 17 so-called programme countries), which comprises UN and non-UN bodies active in statistics at the regional level, as well as focal points on data and statistics from UN country teams. Annual reports are submitted to the CES plenary sessions.

VII.   Cooperation with other organizations

103.   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 and ensuring that all countries of the region benefit from the ongoing international statistical work in emerging areas. The activities are thoroughly discussed to avoid duplication of effort and, in case of joint work, to have a clear division of labour building on the strengths and different membership of the participating organizations.

104. 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, revision of standards for statistics on informality, 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) – 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.

105. As part of a United Nations Development Account project coordinated by UNDESA, UNECE is working alongside seven other United Nations entities (UNDESA, UNEP, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the four other Regional Commissions – ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA) to support national statistical systems to recover from the COVID pandemic and increase their resilience to future disasters.

106. 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 supports UNECE's 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;

- Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) – population censuses, statistics on migration, poverty and inequality

- PARIS21 – 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

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 2022

Title	Year
30th anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics – microsite	2022
Guidance on statistics on children: Spotlight on children exposed to violence, in alternative care, and with a disability	2022
Halfway to 2030: How many targets will be achieved in the UNECE region?	2022
Handbook on forms of employment	2022
Machine learning for official statistics	2022
Measuring the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and men	2022
Measuring the value of official statistics: testing and developing a measurement framework	2022
Synthetic Data for a national statistical organization: A starter guide	2022
Use of new data sources for measuring migration and cross-border mobility	2022

II. Key events

Table 2.
Key events of the Conference of European Statisticians from January to December 2022

Jointly with	Meeting (venue)	Date
	CES Bureau (Geneva, Switzerland)	23-24 February
	Modernization Sprint (Geneva, Switzerland)	10 March
OECD	Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on Implementation of SEEA (online)	28, 30-31 March
	Expert Meeting on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (Geneva, Switzerland)	5-6 May
	Group of Experts on National Accounts (Geneva, Switzerland)	17-20 May
	Conference of European Statisticians 70th plenary session (Geneva, Switzerland)	20-22 June
	ModernStats World Workshop (Belgrade, Serbia)	27-29 June
	Expert Meeting on Statistical Data Dissemination and Communication (online)	13-15 September
	Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva, Switzerland)	19-20 September
	Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva, Switzerland)	21-23 September
	Group of Experts on Business Registers (Geneva, Switzerland)	26-29 September

	Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	29-30 September
	Special Session for EECCA and SEE countries on Supply and Use Tables and Input-Output Tables	3-5 October
	Expert Meeting on Statistical Data Editing (online)	3-6 October
	CES Bureau (Cork, Ireland)	12-13 October
	Expert Meeting on Statistical Data Collection (Rome, Italy)	19-21 October
	Group of Experts on Migration Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	26(pm)-28 October
Environment Division	Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (Geneva, Switzerland)	3-4 November
	Expert Meeting on Modernization of Statistical Legislation (Geneva, Switzerland)	17-18 November
	HLG-MOS Workshop on the Modernization of Official Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	22-25 November
	Workshop on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics to Measure SDG 1 and 10 (Geneva, Switzerland)	7 December
	Group of Experts on Measuring Poverty and Inequality (Geneva, Switzerland)	8-9 December

III. Key projects implemented under the Conference of European Statisticians in 2022

A. 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. Supporting the integration of geospatial and statistical data across the UNECE region – funded by Eurostat

Objective: to foster stronger links between the statistical and geospatial communities across the UNECE region, facilitating greater collaboration and encouraging greater integration of geospatial and statistical information by promoting stronger institutional partnerships and the use of common standards.

Target group and beneficiaries: national statistical offices and geospatial agencies from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Duration: October 2022 – April 2024

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

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

D. Data and statistics for more gender-responsive trade policies – funded from the United Nations Development Account (12th tranche)

Objective: to strengthen the capacity of selected countries to develop and use statistics for more gender-responsive trade policies.

Target group and beneficiaries: National statistical offices and government agencies working on trade statistics in the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova.

Duration: 2019 – June 2023

E. Strengthening social protection for pandemic response: work stream on poverty measurement – funded from the United Nations Development Account (13th tranche)

Objective: support national statistical offices in adapting survey operations and content to the crisis needs, and developing techniques for understanding poverty and vulnerability measurement.

Target group and beneficiaries: National statistical offices in the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan. Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Duration: 2020 – June 2022