

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting of the 2021/2022 Bureau
Cork, Ireland, 12-13 October 2022

REPORT

I.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
II.	IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS.....	2
	A. Data ethics.....	2
	B. Organization of in-depth reviews and the link with topics of the seminars at the CES plenary sessions	3
III.	UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME AND CES TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS...3	
	A. Statistical legislation (ToR)	3
	B. Measuring the value of official statistics (further work)	4
	C. Statistics on children (further work)	4
	D. Sustaining innovation post-Covid (outcome of the sprint and further work) (ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/7 by UNECE).....	5
	E. Forms of employment (further work)	5
	F. Statistical capacity development in the region.....	6
	G. Statistical programme for 2023.....	6
IV.	STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS.....	7
V.	FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2022 CES PLENARY SESSION.....	9
	A. 30 th anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	9
	B. Core values of official statistics (next steps)	9
	C. Collaboration with private data providers (next steps).....	9
	D. Further work with the geospatial community (next steps).....	10
	E. Future work and future workplace – post-Covid-19 working modalities (next steps)	11
	F. Classification of Statistical Activities (next steps)	12
	G. Evaluation of the 70 th plenary session	13
VI.	PREPARATION OF THE CES 2023 PLENARY SESSION: PRELIMINARY AGENDA	13
VII.	DATES AND VENUES OF NEXT MEETINGS	13

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) was held on 12-13 October 2022 as a hybrid meeting, kindly hosted by the Central Statistics Office of Ireland. The following members of the Bureau participated: S. Mnatsakanyan (Armenia), A. Arora (Canada), P. Dalton (Ireland), A. Zigure (Latvia), G. Márquez (Mexico), R. Milicich (representing Mark Sowden, New Zealand), D. Rozkrut (Poland) and I. Diamond (United Kingdom). The following permanent observers also attended: A. Kosarev (representing K. Laykam, CIS-Stat), M. Kotzeva (Eurostat), P. Schreyer (OECD) and L. Bratanova (UNECE). P. Dalton (Ireland) chaired the meeting.

2. The following persons assisted members of the Bureau: A. Safyan (Armenia), E. Rancourt (Canada), C. Dooly, M. Hurley and J. Banim (Ireland), A. Diaz-Castillo (Mexico), O. Mahoney, N. Shearman and S. Whitworth (United Kingdom), M.-J. Santos (Eurostat). T. Luige (UNECE) served as Secretary of the meeting supported by M. Cwiek (UNECE). C. Boldsen, S. Vale, T. Gjaltema, K. Jeffers, F. Willis-Nunez, T. Kolomiyets, W. K. Si Tou and S. Wang of UNECE participated.

3. New Zealand sent written comments on selected agenda items. The comments were presented to the Bureau and taken into account in the discussion.

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

A. Data ethics

(ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/2 by Canada and the United Kingdom; 2/Add.1 by UNECE)

4. The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of data ethics based on a paper prepared by Canada and the United Kingdom with a contribution by Eurostat and a note by the Secretariat. The following comments were made:

(a) The Bureau considered the paper very timely and relevant. NSOs engage in new activities and operate in a new context – the privacy legislation is getting sharper, public acceptability cannot be taken for granted, partnership with data owners is needed, and any misstep may have serious consequences for the whole community.

(b) The concept of data ethics needs to be explained and communicated both in the international statistical community and within the NSO – what it is, why it is important now and how it links to the existing frameworks: the FPOS, core values, the EU code of practice, OECD-CSSP recommendations, statistical legislation, and to other concepts discussed. It could be seen as meta guidance that can reveal gaps in existing frameworks, e.g. privacy is already well covered, but other social values may not be.

(c) Data ethics practices aim to assure the public that their data is safe, used appropriately and for the public good. Ethics should be seen as a system that includes public engagement and transparency of actions. When communicating with the public, referring to concrete use cases should be more effective than to data in general. We should also be clear that we are not discussing ethics because of bad practices, but rather because of the new context.

(d) On the practical side, data ethics decisions are becoming part of the daily business along the entire data life cycle. Sharing of experience and practical advice is needed, including examples of unethical behaviours that can be observed with some private sector providers. Data ethics decisions cannot be based on any algorithm as the cases are never black and white, and the context constantly changes. It seems, therefore, preferable to have a small number of high-level principles, a mechanism to follow the developments and an independent and diverse group of people who can discuss based on the agreed framework. However, only a few countries have already established such practices, so we still need to monitor their impact.

(e) The statistical community needs to participate in the broader discussion on data ethics. For people outside statistics, it is intuitive to talk about data ethics, but they do not see statistics as part of the picture. A discussion is needed on how the statistical aspects can be placed in the broader conversation.

Conclusion

5. The CES Bureau supported further work in this area and agreed with the recommendations presented in the in-depth review paper, including the organization of a CES seminar on data ethics. Poland expressed interest in being involved in the organization of the seminar and Eurostat offered to contribute its experience. Eurostat will provide additional references to be added to the paper.

B. Organization of in-depth reviews and the link with topics of the seminars at the CES plenary sessions

(ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/3 by UNECE)

6. The Bureau discussed the process and selection of topics for the in-depth reviews, and the link between the reviews and the CES seminars. The Bureau also reviewed the updated Guidelines for the in-depth reviews (the previous version was agreed by the Bureau in 2012).

7. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a) There should be synergies between in-depth reviews and CES seminars. The paper is useful for explaining the process and related activities as important tools to keep the CES work relevant. It will help the authors of papers for the reviews and seminars to understand where their work fits under the CES work programme and schedule.

(b) The paper could explain more what will be done with the outcomes of the reviews and seminars.

(c) In the in-depth review paper template, there could be a section focusing on the changes and new demands, instead of the impact of crises.

Conclusion

8. The Bureau agreed with the proposed process of in-depth reviews and CES seminars, and approved the updated *Guidelines for the in-depth reviews*, subject to the comments above.

III. UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME AND CES TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

A. Statistical legislation (ToR)

(ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/4 by the Organizing Committee on modernizing statistical legislation)

9. In February 2022, the Bureau reviewed the outcomes of the first two Expert Meetings on Modernizing Statistical Legislation, and supported the proposal for further work in this area, including setting up a Steering Group. The Bureau discussed the Terms of Reference of the Steering Group.

10. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a) Work on statistical legislation is very timely allowing statistical offices to be ready when an opportunity comes to revise statistical legislation. For example, several countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia have recently adopted a new Statistical Law (Ukraine, Georgia) or are in the process of reviewing it.

(b) Continuous discussion is needed as the legislative framework related to data is becoming very complex (especially in the EU member countries). The Group should take a holistic view of the statistical legislation in the context of other related legislation, the role of NSOs in national data governance, and the associated opportunities and risks.

Conclusion

11. The Bureau approved the Terms of Reference of the Steering Group on statistical legislation. Latvia, Poland, Eurostat and OECD confirmed their interest to be members of the Group.

B. Measuring the value of official statistics (further work)

(ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/5 by the Task Force)

12. The Bureau discussed the follow-up activities to *Measuring the Value of Official Statistics: testing and developing a measurement framework*. The proposal is to continue work in a format similar to a city group, led by the UK.

Conclusion

13. The Bureau will come back to this issue in February 2023 to decide how this work could be organized in the future.

C. Statistics on children (further work)

(ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/6 by UNECE and UNICEF)

14. The Bureau reviewed a proposal for further work on statistics on children. The proposal includes holding an expert meeting for focal points on statistics on children in national statistical offices, other relevant national agencies and international organizations.

15. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a) Countries need concrete support for producing statistics on children and implementing the recommendations in the Guidance.

(b) A survey of countries to track progress towards implementation of the recommendations in the Guidance could help inform the content of an expert meeting and the development of strategies and tools to support implementation.

(c) The Guidance should be widely disseminated.

(d) The proposed further work is important to take forward existing international efforts around the collection of data on violence against children and children with disabilities.

(e) Canada offered to continue leading the work on this topic. Ireland, CIS-Stat and OECD expressed readiness to contribute.

(f) CIS-Stat offered their support to translate the Guidance into Russian.

Conclusion

16. The Bureau approved the proposal for further work on statistics on children, including organising an expert meeting.

D. Sustaining innovation post-Covid (outcome of the sprint and further work) (ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/7 by UNECE)

17. A virtual sprint for Chief Statisticians on sustaining innovation from a strategic and managerial perspective was organized by the HLG-MOS in March 2022. The Bureau discussed the outcome of the sprint and possible further steps.

18. It was noted that a lot of work has been done on innovation under HLG-MOS, with over 1000 people contributing across 60 countries. Sustaining continuous innovation and public service culture is key when statistical offices are becoming organizations providing statistical services.

Conclusion

19. The Bureau strongly supported further work under the HLG-MOS focusing on innovation.

E. Forms of employment (further work) (ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/8 by UNECE)

20. The Bureau discussed the proposed follow-up activities to the *Handbook on Forms of Employment*. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a) The recent developments of the international statistical standard for statistics on work relationships - the changeover to ICSE-18 from ICSE-93 (International Classifications of Status in Employment) - is a major challenge for countries. Therefore, further work should give priority to the implementation of ICSE-18.

(b) The growing importance of measuring gig work, platform work and informal employment was stressed. New data sources vis-à-vis traditional surveys should be considered. Timeliness is of high importance.

(c) Eurostat informed about its pilot project on platform work in 2022.

(d) Further work of the Steering Group on Quality of Employment should continue to ensure alignment with existing frameworks and classifications on the topic.

(e) The Steering Group should support sharing of experience and best practices among countries in measuring various forms of employment.

Conclusion

21. The Bureau supported the proposed way forward for further work led by a subgroup on forms of employment under the Steering Group on Quality of Employment.

F. Statistical capacity development in the region

(ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/9 by UNECE)

22. In 2018, the Conference endorsed the UNECE Statistical Capacity Development Strategy (ECE/CES/2018/10/Rev.1). The Secretariat presented the current status of implementation of the Strategy, and the principles and mechanisms for capacity development activities, including innovations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The current status of technical support to Ukraine through an international network of volunteers from national and international statistical organizations was presented.

23. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a) The principles for statistical capacity development remain relevant and are important to frame the work.

(b) Institutional and structural capacity development should help strengthen resilience of national statistical systems to external challenges.

(c) Good coordination in statistical capacity development between UNECE, Eurostat and EFTA is improving efficiency and allowing the organizations to do more with combined resources. This will become even more important now that Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine are on the European Union accession path.

(d) The proposed UNECE / Eurostat / EFTA Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Kazakhstan should be coordinated with a similar review to be conducted by OECD.

(e) Eurostat proposed a working meeting with UNECE, OECD and EFTA on mobilising expertise to support Ukraine.

(f) Several countries also have active statistical capacity development programmes, and they should be included in coordination activities.

Conclusion

24. The Bureau confirmed the continued relevance of the principles in the UNECE Statistical Capacity Development Strategy and supported the current direction of work, including the focus on greater coordination of activities.

G. Statistical programme for 2023

(ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/10 by UNECE)

25. The Bureau reviewed the Statistical Programme for 2023. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Bureau members appreciated the effort to avoid duplication and work collaboratively with other international organizations. The programme could explain more how this works in practice, as questions about the division of labour may arise. One such example where more information would be needed is the work on 'beyond GDP'.

(b) In the work on core values, there could be more emphasis on how the description of core values can influence the outcome.

(c) In modernisation work, the necessity to update CSPA, GAMS0 and GSBPM to reflect a less survey centric approach; and applying the data science and modern methods in using the administrative and other non-traditional data sources should be noted.

Conclusion

26. The Bureau approved the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2023, subject to the changes listed above.

IV. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS

27. The Bureau had an open discussion about issues of strategic importance for official statistics focusing on challenges and opportunities. A common thread throughout the discussion was the need to maintain relevance of official statistics and statistical offices. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) We need to go back to the reasons why official statistics exist: to measure the economy, society and environment, for evidence-based decision making by citizens and policy makers. Timely data with sufficient granularity is needed for this purpose.

(b) NSOs are working in a highly competitive environment where there is a lot of misinformation. If official statistics do not provide timely and relevant data, other data providers may fill the gaps with lesser quality and provide insight even if the data are not fit for this purpose.

(c) Improving timeliness is extremely important as political leaders often operate on a few weeks' timeline. The quick reaction of many NSOs to the Covid-19 pandemic showed that statistical surveys can be speeded up considerably if needed.

(d) Data on population is one of the cornerstones of official statistics but the concepts, timeliness, coverage and granularity of these data are not meeting the needs. The official definitions (e.g. resident population, migration) often do not reflect the reality. Census data would be required much more frequently than currently available. In addition, real time population estimates based on flexible population definitions (day-time, during working days, holiday periods, in different locations, etc.) would be needed.

(e) As population data is used for sampling frames it affects the quality of all social statistics. Use of administrative data could help. However, in many countries the administrative registers may not exist or their quality may be not sufficient.

(f) Especially difficult is getting data on vulnerable groups and administrative sources often do not provide such data. There is also a risk that these data are not used for statistical purposes raising ethical issues.

(g) From economic statistics, better measuring multinational enterprises and globalisation were mentioned as priority areas. Good work is being done under the initiative 'Beyond GDP'.

(h) NSOs need to do increasingly more with the same (or shrinking) budget. Money tends to go to urgent issues not important issues. Strategic communication is crucial to ensure that the decision makers (including those who decide on the budget) acknowledge the role of

official statistics and what it can offer for the society. Reaching high-up to the decision makers is extremely important – to be known for usefulness and quality.

(i) Communication towards the general public is also important for the social acceptability and trust, getting community engagement and improving the response rates. NSOs can be a bridge between the people and policy making.

(j) Balance should be found between innovative and foundational topics, and between the core statistics where quality cannot be compromised, and the more experimental statistics where the results can be ‘good enough’ (using the Pareto principle). Perfection can be the enemy of the good and the ‘good enough’ data can still give useful insights.

(k) NSOs should become service providers as they no longer have the monopoly for being the only providers of data. This requires opening up to explain what statistical offices do and how, and developing standards and tools that can be used by other agencies dealing with data. The change in the role of NSOs also requires the change in the skillsets of the staff of statistical offices.

(l) Going to more mixed data sources and the use of administrative data constitutes a paradigm change. This requires change in methodologies, models and standards used in official statistics. New methodologies are needed to work with new data sources, unstructured data and administrative sources. Ensuring access to the non-traditional data sources is critical.

(m) NSOs cannot advance without partnerships and collaboration. This requires finding the right partners and maintaining good collaboration arrangements with them. Partnership with academia is important.

(n) NSOs are in a good position to integrate data from different subject areas and different sources. Looking at linkages instead of data in silos can be a good competitive advantage of official statistics.

(o) The international organizations also need to adjust their work to the changing realities. More focus should be put on improving timeliness. The guidelines and recommendations should be future oriented. At the same time, a balance should be kept of working on foundational issues and emerging issues, and between continuity and innovation and change.

(p) The Secretariat’s role is to facilitate consensus among countries to set standards and prepare guidance and tools to support countries in moving forward. The Secretariat should be an active partner and ask sharp questions. International organizations should collaborate and co-invest to pool the resources and avoid duplication.

(q) The resources of international organizations are also limited. The question to be asked is whether we are working on the right things and allocating the resources correctly.

(r) A growing disparity between more developed and less developed countries can be observed. The international guidelines and recommendations need to be applicable in countries with different levels of development.

Conclusion

28. The Bureau will consider follow-up to this discussion at its 2023 February meeting to take on board the outcome of the conversation in the work of the Bureau and the Secretariat.

V. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2022 CES PLENARY SESSION

A. 30th anniversary of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/11 by UNECE)

29. The Bureau discussed follow-up to the CES 2022 celebration and the anniversary campaign of 30 years of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

30. The Bureau expressed high appreciation for the campaign and an impressive list of resources developed. All those materials are freely available and remain relevant for the global anniversary of the Fundamental Principles in 2024. Countries are ready to continue to keep this work alive. In further promoting the Principles, use can be made of the core values and behaviours developed by a Task Team under CES.

Conclusion:

31. The Bureau encouraged everyone to reuse the materials developed during the Fundamental Principles 30th anniversary campaign and the core values and behaviours. Ireland will consider the possibility of redesigning the anniversary logo so that it could be used for promoting the Fundamental Principles in any region also in future.

B. Core values of official statistics (next steps) (ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/12 by the Task Team on core values of official statistics)

32. The Secretariat informed about the current status of the work of the CES Task Team on Core Values, following the endorsement of the values by the Conference in June. The Task Team is now focusing on identifying the behaviors that demonstrate how the Core Values are implemented in practice. It aims to build on relevant previous work at national and international levels and will report on progress at the February 2023 Bureau meeting.

Conclusion

33. The Bureau approved the current direction of this work, noting the link to the discussion on ethics under agenda item II (a), and looked forward to substantive discussions on progress next year.

C. Collaboration with private data providers (next steps) (ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/13 by UNECE in consultation with Canada, Ireland, Poland, Spain and OECD)

34. The Bureau discussed the proposal for follow-up to the CES 2022 session on collaboration with private sector data providers. The following points were made in the discussion:

(a) The Bureau encouraged all national statistical offices and international organizations to use the 'Position statement on the access to data held by the private sector for purposes of official statistics' ([ECE/CES/103/Add.1](#), available in English, French and Russian) in their communications and negotiations about access to data held by the private sector.

(b) As a general principle, the private sector should allow the use of their data for producing official statistics. Statistical offices should not pay for data, especially given the fact that the privately-held data is accessed to produce a public good.

(c) NSOs should demonstrate their value added from the partnership to the private sector, thereby encouraging the private sector to come to NSOs for collaboration. Use cases can help demonstrate what value NSOs could bring with respect to different types of data.

(d) As a lot of the data are held by multinational companies, the access to privately-held data is not a domestic issue. It requires better coordination among countries on the development of regulations, common standards, infrastructure, etc.

(e) Legislation alone will not be enough to ensure a sustainable partnership. A proactive communication and stakeholder engagement plan is needed to give prominence to the private sector for data sharing and to gain social acceptability from the public. It would be helpful to collect best practices on how to approach the private sector and build partnerships. Campaigns on SDG data offer useful references.

(f) Legislation in the European Union, such as the Data Governance Act and Data Act, will offer valuable lessons on how NSOs could get a formal legal basis for guaranteed access to data held by the private sector.

(g) Eurostat has conducted work related to the access to privately held data, they will share their progress and next steps and a list of topics for potential collaboration.

(h) The concern on how to integrate privately-held data in official statistical production was raised, especially related to the quality assessment of different sources and types of data. This technical issue could be addressed by the collection of best practices.

Conclusion

35. The Bureau expressed strong support to undertake further work related to privately held data. The Secretariat will work with the countries and organizations involved in preparing the CES session and the position statement (i.e., Canada, Ireland, Poland, Spain and OECD) to make a more concrete proposal for follow-up work on this topic to the Bureau meeting in February 2023.

D. Further work with the geospatial community (next steps)

(ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/14 by UNECE)

36. The Joint CES / UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary Session in June 2022 supported the continuation of the on-going partnership between UNECE and UN-GGIM: Europe, including through an updated collaboration agreement and the organization of a third joint plenary session in June 2024. Until now, activities related to the integration of statistical and geospatial information have been limited due to a lack of resources, however, the recent signature of a grant agreement with Eurostat will allow UNECE to recruit an expert to support this work for up to 18 months. Proposed activities include joint events with Eurostat and UN-GGIM: Europe, focusing on capacity development and strengthening links between statistical and geospatial organizations.

37. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a) The additional resources for this important area of work were welcomed, and the support of Eurostat was gratefully acknowledged.

(b) There are national visions on the integration of geospatial data with statistical outputs (e.g. in Statistics Canada), and there may be value in having a discussion on a collective geospatial vision for the CES.

(c) There is a link to the work of the High-Level Group on the Modernisation of Official Statistics, particularly the recent Geo-GSBPM.

(d) Ethics, privacy and confidentiality should be considered in activities on the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

Conclusion

38. The Bureau supported the direction of the work, welcomed the financial support from Eurostat and confirmed the organization of a third joint CES / UN-GGIM: Europe plenary session in June 2024.

E. Future work and future workplace – post-Covid-19 working modalities (next steps) (ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/15 by Task Team)

39. The 2022 joint CES/UN-GGIM: Europe plenary session discussed the major changes in working arrangements accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges these pose to NSOs. The plenary session welcomed the work by the HLG-MOS Future of Work Team on future work and future workplace and supported the continuation of the work.

40. The Bureau was informed about the next steps under the Future of Work Task Team. A Workshop on Human Resources Management and Training took place in Brussels on 11-13 October 2022. The workshop focused on how to build NSOs for the future: the need to reframe the work of NSOs, experiences with different approaches, and lessons learned from the recent Covid crisis. The group's future work plans include the development of:

- (a) Organizational ethics reference manual
- (b) Maturity model and resource repository for future of work
- (c) Meta-academy and associated skills support
- (d) Competency profiles for a Statistical Manager and Leader
- (e) Management of NSOs performance and productivity
- (f) Framework for internal communication
- (g) Analytics and metrics for professional HR management in the NSOs
- (h) A transitional NSOs Employer Brand

41. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a) It will be useful to share good practices on how to build and retain organizational culture in the hybrid environment and how to deal with the diverse interests of staff. The changes in work organization put an additional burden on management who may need to adjust more than staff. A centrally developed human resources policy in an NSO can be helpful in balancing the different interests.

(b) Evidence is needed to see whether blended/hybrid working mode will be effective from a long-term strategic viewpoint, concerning core values, commitment, loyalty to the organization, etc. These can have an effect on effectiveness and efficiency of the NSOs service to citizens that could be measured.

(c) Regular staff engagement surveys will be useful to measure any changes in attitudes and experiences in the changing working environments. Such surveys should start as soon as possible to benchmark the current situation. It will be interesting to look into diverse groups of staff, beyond gender and nationality. The expertise of NSOs in carrying out such surveys can be useful also for other organizations.

(d) The hybrid working mode requires a different office setup and it would be useful to have norms, such as how much office space is required. It may have an impact also on the organizational structure, e.g. less layers may be needed.

(e) Collaboration and connection with offices located in different places improved in the virtual environment. Not everything could be done virtually, and when people come together, they are more productive.

Conclusion

42. For the work of the HLG-MOS Capability and Communication Group under HLG-MOS, and its Future of Work Team it was suggested to:

(a) Share materials about what is the current policy of the office on hybrid/blended working arrangements and staff engagement surveys (questionnaires, results);

(b) Create a space to see how countries are progressing with hybrid/blended working, what problems they are encountering and what is working well;

(c) Work on measuring effectiveness and efficiency of the NSOs.

43. The Bureau may wish to turn back to this topic in a future meeting to see what are the developments.

F. Classification of Statistical Activities (next steps)

(ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/16 by Task Team)

44. The CES Bureau has been the custodian of the widely used Classification of Statistical Activities (CSA). A Task Team is working on an updated version of the Classification (CSA 2.0). With the aim to become an international classification, the CSA 2.0 will be presented to the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (UNCEISC), and then to the United Nations Statistical Commission for adoption as a global classification. With this the custodianship of the Classification will move to UNSD as the secretariat of the UN Statistical Commission. The Bureau was informed about the planned next steps.

Conclusion

45. The Bureau took note of the Task Team's work on the revision of the Classification for Statistical Activities. The Bureau commended the successful work of the Task Team led by Mexico and the collaboration between UNECE and UNSD for the shared Secretariat role during the update period and the handover of the CSA custodianship from UNECE to UNSD.

G. Evaluation of the 70th plenary session
(ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/17 by UNECE)

46. The Bureau was informed about the results of the evaluation questionnaire of the 2022 CES plenary session. This meeting was evaluated the highest since 2004. All substantive sessions received votes as the ‘most useful’ ones from a number of participants which shows that the agenda was well balanced addressing the topical issues for NSOs. Bringing in an external perspective was well appreciated. At the same time, some participants noted that the agenda was very intense and asked for fewer topics with deeper analysis and more discussion.

VI. PREPARATION OF THE CES 2023 PLENARY SESSION: PRELIMINARY AGENDA

(ECE/CES/BUR/2022/OCT/18 by UNECE)

47. The CES 2023 plenary session is planned to take place during the week of 26-30 June 2023 in Paris, back-to-back with the OECD CSSP meeting. The Bureau discussed the preliminary agenda of the CES 2023 plenary session based on a proposal by the Secretariat. There was support for having a seminar session on social acceptability of official statistics, including data ethics.

48. Concerning a possible high-level strategic discussion, it was noted that such a discussion with many delegates may be difficult to organise. In this case, there could be a sprint or preparatory session held before CES.

Conclusion

49. The Secretariat will prepare a final draft CES 2023 provisional agenda for the Bureau meeting in February 2023.

VII. DATES AND VENUES OF NEXT MEETINGS

50. The Bureau discussed the dates and venues of the next CES Bureau meetings and CES plenary sessions.

Conclusion

51. The dates and venues of the next meetings of the CES Bureau and the CES plenary sessions were confirmed as follows:

- 15-16 February 2023 in Geneva
- 11-12 October 2023 (UK offered to host the meeting)
- 14-15 February 2024
- 15-16 October 2024

52. The 71st CES plenary session is planned to take place during the week of 26-30 June 2023 in Paris, back-to-back with the OECD CSSP meeting.

53. The 72nd CES plenary session is planned to take place during the week of 24-28 June 2024 in Geneva, back-to-back with the OECD CSSP meeting. There will be a joint session with the UN-GGIM: Europe.

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