

ANNEX I

[English only]

Terms of reference for the Expert Group on National Accounts**A. Mandate**

1. The Expert Group on National Accounts supports the implementation of the CES work programme related to national accounts and globalization. It will facilitate the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) and related international statistical standards through the promotion of best practices, contributions to the development of recommendations and methodological materials, and support to capacity building activities in national accounts. The Group should also support linking the SNA with SDGs, to complement the work on implementation of the *CES Road Map on Statistics for SDGs*.

2. The Expert Group will report to CES on UNECE activities on national accounts and globalization. Its work will be organized in coordination with Eurostat and OECD to avoid overlap and ensure synergies with related work undertaken by other international organizations. It will also consult with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) and other relevant international groups to ensure international coordination of work related to the 2008 SNA implementation.

B. Activities

3. The Expert Group will engage in the following main activities:
- a) Facilitate the exchange of experience and best practices to improve the quality and international comparability of national accounts and related economic statistics in CES member countries;
 - b) Provide a forum to review the guidelines and recommendations developed by the teams of specialists, established by CES in the area of national accounts and globalization with a view of presenting them for endorsement to CES, and follow up on their implementation;
 - c) Identify new emerging areas where methodological research should be undertaken and bring these issues to the attention of the CES Bureau and the ISWGNA to avoid duplication and achieve synergies. The work will be undertaken in close collaboration with Eurostat, OECD, IMF and CIS-Stat.
 - d) Support the implementation of the 2008 SNA in the EECCA and SEE countries by identifying specific regional priorities and capacity development needs. Provide a forum that supports the exchange of experience and institutional cooperation between the compilers of national accounts, balance of payments and other macroeconomic statistics in the region;
 - e) Support linking the SNA with SDGs, to complement the work on implementation of the *CES Road Map on Statistics for SDGs*.

C. Membership and officers

4. All United Nations member states that participate in the work of CES will be invited to the meetings of the Group. The statistical departments of international organizations that are

active in the area of national accounts will also be invited to attend. In addition, other United Nations member states, researchers and representatives of academia can participate as observers, in compliance with United Nations rules and practices.

5. The Expert Group elects its officers (Chairperson and/or vice-Chairpersons) in accordance with the guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies.

D. Methods of work

6. The Expert Group will hold regular annual or biennial meetings. The Group should aim to reach consensus in its work to the highest extent possible.

7. At its sessions, the Expert Group will review the achievements and problems met since the preceding meeting, propose to CES and its Bureau future activities and review the work and status of the teams of specialists in the area of national accounts and globalization.

8. The work of the Expert Group on National Accounts will be guided by a Steering Group. The Steering Group will organize the meetings of the Expert Group and will advise the Secretariat on the implementation of the CES work programme on national accounts and globalization. The Steering Group includes members representing different sub-regions of the UNECE and the main international organizations active in the area of national accounts.

9. CES will review the mandate of the Expert Group every five years.

10. The UNECE Statistical Division services the meetings of the Expert Group, providing logistical support and preparing documentation, including reports.

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