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

**Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians,
its Bureau and Teams of Specialists**

Report of the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia

Prepared by the Secretariat

Summary

The Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia was established in January 2020 in response to the United Nations Secretary-General's Recommendations on Phase 2 of the United Nations Development System Reform. According to its terms of reference, its work should be guided by the Conference of European Statisticians, and it should provide regular reports and updates to the Conference.

This report covers the period since the 2023 plenary session of the Conference. The Conference is invited to take note of its contents, and to provide any guidance as appropriate.



I. Background

1. The Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia was established in response to Recommendation 4 of the United Nations Secretary-General's report on the "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 2019".¹ That recommendation was to:

"launch a region-by-region change management process that will seek to consolidate existing capacities with regard to data and statistics, as well as other relevant analytical functions that may be currently duplicative. This exercise will have to be unique to each region and will be detailed and fleshed out in full consultation with each regional commission and respective regional team of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group".

2. Following extensive consultation within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region, the various United Nations agencies active in the field of data and statistics proposed to respond to this recommendation by creating a regional coordination group, which would take the form of a regional version of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA). This approach received political support from the UNECE Executive Committee at its meeting of 14 October 2019. The Regional Coordination Group held its most recent meeting on 22 March 2024. Until February 2024, it was co-chaired by UNECE and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). From April 2024 onwards, UNFPA kindly took up being co-chair.

II. Membership

3. The regional coordination group initially consisted of representatives of the different United Nations agencies active in the field of data and statistics in the region. Its membership has since been enlarged twice. From July 2020, it has included the data and statistics focal points from the United Nations Country Teams of the 17 UNECE "programme countries" and Kosovo² (see annex), to ensure coordination between the regional and national levels. From January 2021, it was opened to representatives of non-United Nations organizations with data and statistics activities in the region, to ensure more comprehensive coordination of support to countries. The membership currently includes 25 international organizations (see annex).

III. Activities since June 2023

4. The regional coordination group has worked on the following activities and outputs since the last report to the Conference in June 2023:

(a) Inputs in the form of stories illustrating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the publication "*Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region: Facing a Headwind in 2024*".³ The stories show concrete ways in which progress towards SDGs is made in the region.

(b) A calendar of statistical capacity-development activities, as required by the United Nations Chief Executive Board's Roadmap on Data and Statistics, to promote collaboration and facilitate information sharing – <https://teamup.com/ks5swirisz6nrwybdh>.

(c) Information sharing about the United Nations Statistical Commission, and the topics discussed at its 2024 meeting, to help to link activities from the global to the regional and national levels.

¹ A/74/73 – E/2019/14.

² References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

³ Online publication: <https://w3.unece.org/sdg2024/> and pdf version: ECE/CES/STAT/2024/1.

(d) General sharing of information on data and statistics activities and events, with the aim of improving coordination, increasing the integration of United Nations Country Team focal points into the international statistical community, and providing regional support for national activities.

5. The group has also decided to change the set-up of the quarterly meetings. At least half of the programme will now focus on a specific theme. For example, on migration statistics, environmental statistics, global assessments and sectoral reviews, or on consolidating national and international SDG statistics and how to set up communication between custodian agencies.

6. The group also decided to move away from using TeamsUP and to create a platform that better facilitates the exchange of activities and events, including already from the initial planning phase. This is to ensure that collaboration and coordination take place from the start rather than when plans are already final. To better support requests for training and a better exchange of expertise within the group, an interactive forum will be set up where members can request and offer assistance or training to other members.

IV. Action requested from the Conference

7. The Conference is invited to take note of the contents of this report, and to provide any guidance to the Regional Coordination Group as appropriate.

Annex

Membership of the Regional Coordination Group

I. Regional offices of international organizations and regional organizations

The following regional organizations and regional offices of international organizations are members of the Regional Coordination Group:

- Eurasian Economic Commission
- European Free Trade Association
- Eurostat
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- International Labour Organization
- International Organization for Migration
- International Telecommunication Union
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development / PARIS21
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- United Nations Development Coordination Office
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- United Nations Population Fund
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- United Nations High Commission for Refugees
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations Office for Project Services
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
- World Health Organization.

II. United Nations Country Teams

The following United Nations Country Teams are members of the Regional Coordination Group:

- Albania
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan

- Belarus
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia
- Republic of Moldova
- Serbia
- Tajikistan
- Türkiye
- Turkmenistan
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan.

The United Nations Kosovo Team is also a member.
