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Economic Commission for Europe**Conference of European Statisticians****Seventy-second plenary session**

Geneva, 20–21 June 2024

**Report of the seventy-second plenary session of the
Conference of European Statisticians**

1. The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) held its seventy-second plenary session on 20–21 June 2024 in Geneva. A joint day with the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe (UN-GGIM: Europe) was held on 20 June. Agenda items I to V were discussed on the joint day on 20 June. Agenda items VI to XI were discussed on 21 June.
2. The session was attended by representatives from [\[list of countries to be filled in based on attendance record\]](#).
3. The session was also attended by representatives of the [\[list of organizations to be filled in based on attendance record\]](#).

I. Opening and adoption of the agenda*Documentation:* ECE/CES/106

4. D. Rozkrut, the Chair of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), chaired the plenary session. He opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The provisional agenda (ECE/CES/106) was adopted.

**II. Strategic directions in the work of statistical offices and
geospatial agencies***Documentation:* ECE/CES/2024/7 and 8**Action taken**

5. The joint CES/UN-GGIM: Europe plenary session:
 - (a) Requested the secretariats to continue the current collaboration in areas of mutual strategic importance for the statistical and geospatial communities;
 - (b) Requested the Bureaus of the two bodies to discuss the operationalization of this collaboration (including a possible joint Task Force on integration of statistics and geography);
 - (c) Supported the extension of the collaboration agreement between the UNECE CES and UN-GGIM: Europe for 2024–2026;

(d) Decided to organize another joint plenary session in 2026;

(e) Invited the UN-GGIM: Europe to report on key developments regularly to the CES plenary sessions (and vice versa), and decided to include collaboration of geospatial and statistical agencies as a recurring item on the agendas of both the CES and UN-GGIM: Europe plenary sessions;

(f) Encouraged closer cooperation between the statistical and geospatial agencies at the national level, and focusing on developing use cases to highlight the value added of mutual collaboration;

(g) Requested to strengthen the role of the secretariat of the Economic Commission of Europe in supporting member States in strengthening interlinkages between the statistical and geospatial communities, and developing interoperability methodologies for integrating statistics/data and geography.

III. Linking data across domains and sources

Documentation: ECE/CES/2024/5, 5/Add.1 and INF.1

Action taken

6. The joint CES/UN-GGIM: Europe plenary session:

(a) Endorsed the outcomes of the in-depth review;

(b) Asked the HLG-MOS to consider including horizontal issues related to linking data in its work programme and in the agenda of its groups as far as possible and whenever those issues are related to the mandates of the respective groups;

(c) Invited HLG-MOS to consider developing a road map on linking data, based on the outcomes of the in-depth review;

(d) Supported mainstreaming issues related to linking data across sources and domains in the programme of work of subject-matter groups working under the CES.

IV. Integration of geospatial and statistical data

Documentation: ECE/CES/2024/8 and 29

Action taken

7. The joint CES/UN-GGIM: Europe plenary session:

(a) Acknowledged the importance and strong added value of integrating geospatial and statistical data;

(b) Recognized the need for stronger collaboration between the geospatial and statistical communities;

(c) Encouraged the statistical and geospatial communities to further develop collaboration modalities, develop and implement frameworks and principles, and support data interoperability approaches to deliver a unified approach towards data integration,

(d) Recognized the important opportunity in drafting the post-2030 Development Agenda and strongly encouraged the geospatial and statistical communities to actively contribute to its development to maximise the impact that geospatial and statistical data have in national and global development programmes.

V. Use of Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models in official statistics and authoritative geospatial data

Documentation: ECE/CES/2024/17, 21-24

Action taken

8. The joint CES/UN-GGIM: Europe plenary session:

(a) Recognized the important role of AI technologies in enhancing the production of official statistics and authoritative geospatial data, while maintaining quality standards;

(b) Encouraged countries to continue sharing their experiences and lessons learned in this domain, particularly in relation to emerging developments such as generative AI, and to look for opportunities to collaborate;

(c) Asked the CES Bureau and the UN GGIM-Europe Executive Committee to discuss the follow-up to this session and decide on further steps.

VI. Implementation of the 2025 System of National Accounts in the Conference of European Statisticians member countries

Documentation: ECE/CES/2024/18, 25-28

Action taken

9. The Conference:

(a) Acknowledged the excellent work of the SNA/BPM update teams and the global NA/BoP community;

(b) Recognized the need to move from conceptual work and early testing to planning of the implementation;

(c) Appreciated the work of the current task forces on developing compilation guidance on specific items and the extensive guidance already available;

(d) Noted that the country papers, panel discussion and interventions from the floor identified several challenges still to be addressed and areas of further work to be considered;

(e) Requested the UNECE Steering Group on National Accounts to review the outcomes of the discussion and develop a proposal with activities in support of 2025 SNA implementation; and

(f) Asked the CES Bureau to discuss the proposed activities and decide on follow up work.

VII. Coordination of international statistical work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

A. Outcomes of the recent in-depth reviews carried out by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

Documentation: ECE/CES/2024/4, 4/Add.1, 5, 5/Add.1, 6, 6/Add.1, INF.1

Action taken

10. The Conference:

(a) Endorsed the outcome of the in-depth review on use cases for supplementary population bases;

(b) Requested the Secretariat to ensure that the CES Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses of the 2030 Round take the in-depth review into account;

(c) Supported the proposal to explore the need for further work on this topic from 2025 under the auspices of CES work on population and migration statistics.

11. The Conference endorsed the outcome of the in-depth review on timeliness, frequency and granularity of official statistics, supported its recommendations and the comments made by the Bureau.

B. Topics of in-depth reviews in 2024 and 2025

Documentation: : ECE/CES/2024/13

Action taken

12. The Conference confirmed the topics of the upcoming in-depth reviews, and asked the Secretariat and countries leading the reviews to report on the outcomes in June 2025:

(a) Maintaining relevance through providing products meeting user needs (October 2024, leading country to be confirmed);

(b) Administrative microdata for climate, energy and environment statistics (October 2024, led by Ireland);

(c) Building social acceptability through improving statistical literacy (February 2025, leading country to be confirmed);

(d) Halfway to 2030 – lessons learned from providing statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (February 2025, led by Poland);

(e) Ageing-related statistics (February 2025, leading country to be confirmed).

13. Countries who would like to contribute are invited to inform the Secretariat.

VIII. Data ethics – a key enabler of social acceptability

Documentation: ECE/CES/2024/19

Action taken by the Conference

14. The Conference:

(a) Supported the continuation of work undertaken by the Ethics Task Team under HLG-MOS, especially regarding the Reference Book on Ethics;

(b) Encouraged countries to join the Task Team and/or contribute to the development of the Reference Book;

(c) Invited the responsible team to report on the completed work at the CES plenary session.

IX. Work of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/2024/9, 10

Action taken

15. The Conference:

(a) Approved the annual report of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS), including the outcomes of the activities carried out in 2023 and plans for the rest of 2024 (ECE/CES/2024/9 and ECE/CES/2024/10);

(b) Supported the continuation of the work on modernization of official statistics, and requested the HLG-MOS to continue reporting annually on the outcomes of its work and plans for the following year;

(c) Invited national and international statistical organizations to support the HLG-MOS work programme and to become partners in the Statistical Modernization Community.

X. Reports, guidelines and recommendations prepared under the umbrella of the Conference

A. Role of national statistical offices in achieving national climate objectives

Documentation: ECE/CES/2024/1 and 1/Add.1

Action taken

16. The Conference:

(a) Endorsed the guidance on the role of national statistical offices in achieving national climate objectives (ECE/CES/2024/1), subject to amendments presented in the document (ECE/CES/2024/1/Add.1);

(b) Supported preparation of a short version of the document and creating an online, interactive publication;

(c) Requested the CES Bureau to discuss possible follow-up taking into account comments on future priorities received in the electronic consultation and recommendations presented in the guidance.

B. Subjective poverty measures

Documentation: ECE/CES/2024/2 and 2/Add.1

Action taken by the Conference

17. The Conference endorsed the document “Subjective Poverty” (ECE/CES/2024/2), prepared by the Task Force on subjective poverty measures, subject to the amendments outlined in document ECE/CES/2024/2/Add.1.

C. New version of the Generic Statistical Information Model

Documentation: ECE/CES/2024/3 and INF.2

Action taken by the Conference

18. The Conference endorsed the new version of the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM 2.0) and encouraged countries to implement it.

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

Documentation: ECE/CES/2024/11, 12, 14 and addenda, 15, 16, 16/Add.1, 20, and INF.3

Action taken by the Conference

19. The Conference confirmed the decisions of the CES Bureau as reflected in their meeting reports and approved the report on the implementation of the 2023 UNECE Statistical Programme (ECE/CES/2024/14 and Addenda).

20. The Conference welcomed the annual report by the Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics for Europe and Central Asia (ECE/CES/2024/12), and requested the group to continue reporting annually on its work.

21. The Conference took note of the implications of the UN Statistical Commission session in March 2024 for the work of the Conference.

22. The Conference adopted the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2024 (ECE/CES/2024/15).

23. The Conference adopted the Programme of Work for 2025 including the list of planned publications and meetings, and recommended it to the EXCOM for approval (ECE/CES/2024/16 and 16/Add.1). Regarding the decision to organize an expert meeting on statistical legislation, the Conference requested this meeting be conducted in 2025 with interpretation and translation of the agenda and report to the UNECE official languages.

24. The Conference requested to be informed in 2025 about the implementation of the Statistical Programme, the outcomes of the expert meetings in 2024, and the Statistical Programme for 2025 and 2026.

25. The Conference endorsed the outline of key components of the programme of work of Statistics subprogramme for 2026 (ECE/CES/2024/INF.3).

26. The Conference was informed about the outcomes of recent internal evaluations of the completed extrabudgetary projects and the upcoming evaluations for projects to be completed in 2025.

27. The Conference took note of the report on capacity-development under the Statistical Programme (ECE/CES/2024/20) and requested to be informed annually about the capacity-development activities.

28. The Conference requested the CES Teams of Specialists to regularly report to the Conference, in particular when they have completed an important part of work, and present summaries of electronic consultations on their final outputs.

29. The Conference emphasized the importance of translating into English, French and Russian the main documents for the CES plenary session and the meetings of its Groups of Experts (the main documents include a provisional agenda, a report and one main document for each agenda sub-item. For the CES plenary session, the main documents include in addition six documents for each sub-session).

30. The Conference emphasized the importance of providing interpretation in English, French and Russian for the CES plenary session and the meetings of the Groups of Experts, and of recording meetings listed in the meeting calendar.

31. The seventy-third CES plenary session will take place on 16 to 18 June a.m. back to back with the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (venue to be determined).