

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Second Meeting of the 2008/2009 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 2-3 February 2009

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Bureau meeting will take place in room VIII in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The meeting will start at 9:30 on Monday, 2 February 2009.

The meeting will be held in English only. The documents for the meeting will be distributed by e-mail as soon as they become available.

I. OPENING BY HELI JESKANEN-SUNDSTRÖM

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

1. The CES Bureau makes a regular in-depth review of selected statistical areas. The review looks at strategic issues in statistics over the next five years or so and deals with issues of concern to statistical offices of a conceptual and coordinating nature.

(a) **Housing statistics** (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/2 by Poland);

2. The Bureau selected this area for in-depth review in February 2008.

(b) **Follow-up on agricultural statistics** (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/3 by Eurostat);

3. The Bureau made an in-depth review of agricultural statistics in October 2008. As a follow-up to the discussion, Eurostat will report on the outcome of the expert group meeting on agricultural statistics (22-23 October 2009, Washington, D.C.) and will present a plan for future activities in this area.

(c) **Follow-up on income, living conditions and poverty** (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/4 and 5 by UNECE and Canada)

4. The Bureau made an in-depth review of income, living conditions and poverty in October 2007. In the follow-up discussion in October 2008, the Bureau concluded that work is needed in two directions: a narrower focus on practical implementation of the Canberra Group Handbook on household income, and a wider initiative to work towards an integrated framework of income expenditures and wealth. The Bureau decided to create a Task Force to develop practical implementation guidelines of the Canberra Group Handbook. The Terms of Reference for the Task Force will be presented to the Bureau for approval.

5. Report on the outcome of the discussions with UNSD about setting up a possible city group will also be presented.

(d) Process of in-depth reviews by the Bureau (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/6, 7 and 8 by UNECE)

6. In October 2008, the Bureau decided that it would be useful to discuss the topics selected for in-depth review by the Bureau at a CES plenary session prior to the discussion at the Bureau meetings. The secretariat will present a note on the plans for organising the discussion of the topic of statistical dissemination, communications and publications at the CES 2009 plenary session, before the in-depth review of the Bureau in October 2009.

7. Furthermore, the Bureau decided that the outcomes of the reviews on agriculture statistics and statistics on labour cost will be consulted electronically with the CES members before the 2009 February Bureau meeting. The Bureau will be informed about the results of the consultation.

III. MEETING WITH THE TOP MANAGEMENT OF THE UNECE (OR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)

8. Traditionally, the Bureau meets with the Executive Secretary and/or the representatives of the Bureau of UNECE EXCOM during the February meeting.

IV. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY ISSUES IN INTEGRATED DATASETS (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/9 by Australia, the Chair of the Task Force on Confidentiality and Privacy Issues in Integrated Datasets)

9. The Task Force was set up in 2007 to produce a draft set of principles and annotated guidelines for addressing confidentiality and privacy aspects of statistical data integration projects. The Principles are planned to be submitted to the CES 2009 plenary session for approval.

10. The Bureau is invited to discuss the draft Principles that were revised after the October 2008 Bureau meeting.

V. MEASURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NEW TASK FORCE (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/10 by UNECE and Canada)

11. After the finalisation of the Report by the Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development in June 2008, the Conference and the Bureau have stressed the need for continuation of work in this area. The Bureau discussed the first version of the TOR for the new Task Force in October 2008, made comments and asked the UNECE and Statistics Canada to revise the TOR.

12. The revised TOR for a Task Force to continue the work related to measuring sustainable development will be presented to the Bureau for approval.

VI. CHALLENGES IN MANAGING THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN STATISTICAL OFFICES

(ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/11 by Norway, the Chair of the Steering Group on Managing Statistical Information Systems)

13. The Bureau discussed the management of statistical information systems at its October 2008 meeting, in connection with the UNECE Statistical Programme. The Bureau agreed that the issues of managing and sharing statistical software should be dealt with from a strategic perspective and solved at a managerial level. The Bureau asked the Steering Group on Management of Statistical Information Technology to prepare a paper on challenges in managing ICT in statistical offices for the February 2009 meeting of the Bureau.

14. The Bureau is invited to discuss the management of statistical ICT based on the paper by Norway.

VII. PREPARATIONS FOR THE CES 2009 PLENARY SESSION

(a) **Outline for the seminar: “Balancing principles of professional autonomy and accountability with the mandate to produce policy relevant data”**
(ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/12 by Ireland)

15. An updated outline of the seminar will be presented to the Bureau for comments.

(b) **Outline for the seminar “Strategic issues in business statistics”**
(ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/13 by Canada and Eurostat)

16. An updated outline of the seminar will be presented to the Bureau for comments.

(c) **Preparation of the formal session, draft agenda and timetable for the 2009 plenary session** (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/14 by UNECE).

17. The Bureau is invited to comment on the organization of the CES plenary session in 2009.

VIII. WORK OF THE CES TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

(a) **Guidelines on migration statistics** (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/15 by the Task Force on Migration Statistics)

18. The *Guidelines on the use and dissemination of data on international immigration to facilitate their use to improve emigration data of sending countries* were submitted to the October 2008 meeting of the Bureau for information only. The Bureau decided that the Guidelines should be consulted electronically with the Bureau and the outcome of the discussion will be presented at the February 2009 meeting. The Guidelines are planned to be presented for endorsement to the Conference in June 2009.

19. The Guidelines are submitted to the Bureau for approval.

(b) Manual on victimisation surveys (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/16 by UNECE)

20. The Task Force on Victim Surveys is developing a *Manual on Victimisation Surveys*. It is planned to be submitted to the CES 2009 plenary session for approval.

21. The draft Manual will be presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

(c) Framework for measuring quality of work (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/17 by UNECE)

22. The Task Force on Measuring the Quality of Employment is developing a common framework to measure the various quality aspects of employment. The draft conceptual framework is planned to be submitted to the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS). The Bureau will be informed about the progress of work in developing the framework.

(d) Emerging issues in social statistics; families and households and measuring volunteer work (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/18 by Canada, the Chair of the Task Force on Emerging Issues in Social Statistics)

23. The Task Force on Emerging Issues in Social Statistics was set up in October 2005 to identify and develop proposals to examine emerging issues in social statistics. The Task Force decided to focus the work in two areas: measurement of new forms of families and households, and measurement of volunteer work. New terms of reference for the existing Task Force on Families and Households and a proposal for the creation of a new Task Force on Measuring Volunteer Work were approved in October 2006.

24. The Bureau will be informed about the progress of work of the Task Forces.

IX. HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN STATISTICAL OFFICES
(ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/19 by UNECE)

25. As a follow-up to the CES seminar on this topic held in 2006, a Forum on Human Resources and Training was organised on 3-5 September 2008 in Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Bureau discussed the outcome of the meeting in October 2008. The Bureau concluded that further work in this area is necessary and asked the secretariat, in consultation with the Organising Committee, to prepare a more concrete proposal for follow-up work to be considered by the Bureau in February 2009.

26. The Bureau will discuss the proposal for future work on human resources and training.

X. PRESENTATION OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES OF ILO

27. The 50th CES plenary session recommended that, periodically, some time should be devoted to discussing the work of international organizations and their strategies. In previous years, the IMF, World Bank, Eurostat, UNSD, OECD and CIS-STAT presented their statistical activities to the Bureau.

28. The International Labour Organisation will be invited to present its statistical activities to the Bureau.

XI. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2008 UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/20 by UNECE)

29. A short report on the work accomplished by the UNECE Statistical Division in 2008 will be presented to the Bureau for comments.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

(a) Meeting of the Chair of the CES with the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM)

30. A regular meeting of the Chair of the CES with the UNECE Executive Committee took place on 21 November 2008. The Bureau will be briefly informed about the discussion at the meeting.

(b) Information on the database of international statistical activities (DISA) (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/21 by UNECE)

31. The 2009 version of the Database of International Statistical Activities is planned to be available by the time of the Bureau meeting. Brief information will be given to the Bureau.

(c) Follow-up to decisions (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/22 by UNECE)

32. A note on follow-up to the decisions taken by the Bureau and the Conference will be presented for information.

XIII. FREQUENCY OF THE CES BUREAU MEETINGS. DATES AND VENUE OF THE NEXT BUREAU MEETINGS (ECE/CES/BUR/2009/FEB/23 by UNECE)

33. In February 2008, the Bureau discussed the frequency of the face-to-face Bureau meetings. In October 2008, the UNECE secretariat was asked to prepare an agenda for the Bureau meeting if it would take place once per year.

34. The Bureau is invited to discuss the frequency of the Bureau meetings.

35. Furthermore, the Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venue of its next meetings. The October 2009 meeting of the Bureau was preliminarily scheduled for 15-16 October 2009. Brazil has offered to host this meeting.

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

36. Any other business can be taken up under this agenda item. The Bureau will also be asked to decide which papers from the meeting will be made available on Internet in line with the Bureau decision to make its work public and transparent.

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