

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

For information

Second meeting of the 2008/2009 Bureau  
Geneva, 2-3 February 2009

Item 12c of the Provisional  
Agenda

**FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE BUREAU AND THE CONFERENCE**

Note by the secretariat

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**INTRODUCTION**

1. The note on follow-up to decisions taken by the Bureau and the Conference is updated for each Bureau meeting and for the CES plenary session. It follows up on the main decisions taken by the Bureau and Conference where work is still not completed.
2. The decisions are grouped in two sections: I. Decisions related to the work of the Conference and its Bureau; and II. Decisions related to specific Statistical Activities (SAs). Actions undertaken before 2008 are summarised in a short form under History; decisions and follow-up from 2008 are given in more detail. Under each decision, the action to be taken is indicated.

## I. DECISIONS RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS BUREAU

### Progress of work and strategies of international organizations

History:	At the June 2002 plenary session, it was agreed that, regularly, discussion should be devoted to the progress of work of international organizations and their strategies. The following international organizations have presented their statistical activities to the Bureau: IMF (2003), the World Bank (2004), Eurostat (2005), UNSD (2006), OECD (2007) and CIS-STAT (2008).
Action:	<i>ILO will present its activities in February 2009.</i>

### In-depth reviews of selected statistical areas by the Bureau

History:	In June 2006, the Conference emphasized the need to review periodically the high priority statistical areas where considerable work is ongoing. In October 2006, the Bureau decided to focus the in-depth discussion on strategic issues. In February 2007, the Bureau decided to test a new approach for the in-depth reviews at its next two meetings, focusing on five selected areas and on strategic issues.
October 2008	The Bureau considered the new approach successful and discussed how to better involve the CES members in the in-depth reviews.
Action:	<p><i>i) The in-depth reviews on government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics; and publication, communication and dissemination issues were postponed to October 2009;</i></p> <p><i>ii) The Bureau decided in future to discuss the topics selected for in-depth review at the CES plenary session prior to the discussion at the Bureau meeting;</i></p> <p><i>iii) The new approach will be tested in June 2009 with the topic on statistical dissemination, communications and publications; the UNECE secretariat has identified a possible author of an issue paper. The UNECE secretariat will report to the Bureau in February 2009;</i></p> <p><i>iv) The outcomes of the reviews on agriculture statistics and measurement of labour cost will be discussed electronically with all members of the CES; the Bureau will decide how to inform the CES about the outcomes of the in-depth review in February 2009.</i></p>

### CES Seminars

#### Strategic issues in business statistics

June 2008 CES:	The CES selected this topic for the seminar on emerging issues to be held during the CES 2009 plenary session. Canada and Eurostat are the organizers of the seminar.
Action:	<i>The Bureau will review an updated outline of the seminar in February 2009.</i>

#### Balancing principles of professional autonomy and accountability with the mandate to produce policy relevant data

June 2008 CES:	The CES selected this topic for the seminar on foundational issues of statistical systems to be held during the 2009 CES plenary session. Ireland is the organizer of the seminar.
Action:	<i>The Bureau will review an updated outline of the seminar in February 2009.</i>

## II. DECISIONS RELATED TO SPECIFIC STATISTICAL AREAS

### SA 1.2 Labour statistics

History:	In July 2007 the Bureau approved the TOR for the Task Force on Quality of Work.
February 2008:	The draft conceptual framework for quality of employment was planned to be ready by the end of October 2008 and submitted to the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS).
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>The Bureau will be informed about the progress of work in February 2009.</i></b>

### SA 1.7 Human settlements and housing

October 2007:	The Bureau decided to review housing statistics because there are very few international activities in this area.
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>The Bureau will review housing statistics in February 2009. Paper will be prepared by Poland.</i></b>

### SA 1.8 Justice and crime statistics

October 2007:	The Bureau reviewed the progress of work in justice and crime statistics.
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>The Manual on Victim Surveys will be presented to the Bureau for review and endorsement in February 2009.</i></b>

### SA 1.9 Culture statistics

History:	In February 2003, the Bureau approved the proposal for the organization of a joint UNECE/UIS-UNESCO/Eurostat Meeting in 2004-2005. The Meeting was not included in the UNECE Statistical Programme due to lack of resources. In 2005, Eurostat informed about their plans to organize the meeting in the near future.
February 2008:	The Bureau reviewed in depth culture statistics based on a paper by Finland.
October 2008:	The Bureau discussed the follow-up on culture statistics.
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>The international meeting on culture statistics was postponed. The Bureau will continue to follow up on developments in culture statistics.</i></b>

### SA 2.3 Business statistics

History:	The Bureau made an in-depth review of business statistics in 2007. It was decided to form a small task force to address pending issues in the field of business statistics.
February 2008:	The Bureau approved the Terms of Reference (TOR) for a Task Force.
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>A CES seminar on business statistics will be organized in June 2009 as part of the work of the Task Force.</i></b>

**SA 2.4.1 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries**

October 2008	Agriculture statistics (including forestry and fisheries) was reviewed in-depth in October 2008.
<b>Action:</b>	<p><i>i) UNECE secretariat sent the updated paper to the CES members for comments and will report back to the Bureau in February 2009;</i></p> <p><i>ii) The Bureau will decide in February 2009 how to present the outcomes of the in-depth review at the CES 2009 plenary session;</i></p> <p><i>iii) Eurostat will prepare proposals for future work in agricultural statistics to be discussed at the February 2009 CES Bureau meeting.</i></p> <p><i>iv) Agriculture statistics could be considered for a seminar in 2010.</i></p>

**SA 2.5 Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics**

<b>Action:</b>	<i>The in-depth review on government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics was postponed to October 2009. A paper will be prepared by IMF in cooperation with Eurostat.</i>
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**SA 2.8 Labour cost**

October 2008	The Bureau made an in-depth review of measurement of labour cost.
<b>Action:</b>	<p><i>i) UNECE secretariat sent the updated paper to the CES members for comments and will report back to the Bureau in February 2009;</i></p> <p><i>ii) The Bureau will decide in February 2009 how to present the outcomes of the in-depth review at the CES 2009 plenary session.</i></p>

**SA 3.1 Environment statistics**

February 2008:	The Bureau reviewed in depth environment statistics.
October 2008	The Bureau discussed follow-up to the in-depth review on environment statistics. The Bureau endorsed the TOR for the creation of a joint task force with the UNECE Policy Environment Committee on assisting the CIS Countries to develop environmental indicators.
<b>Action:</b>	<i>The Bureau will continue to follow up regularly on the work on environment statistics undertaken in the UNECE region.</i>

**SA 3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues**

October 2007:	The Bureau reviewed in-depth the topic of statistics on income, living conditions and poverty.
February 2008:	Canada, the Chair of the CES Task Force on emerging issues in social statistics, developed a proposal for possible practical actions that can be undertaken to improve work in this area.
October 2008:	The Bureau discussed follow-up on income, living conditions and poverty.
<b>Action:</b>	<p><i>(i) Canada, United States and Austria will prepare TOR for a group to develop practical implementation guidelines on the Canberra Group Handbook, to be presented to the Bureau in February 2009;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Canada will discuss with UNSD the setting up of a possible city group to work on measuring income, living conditions and poverty and inform the Bureau about the outcome of the discussion in February 2009.</i></p>

**SA 3.3.4 Globalization**

History:	Globalization was discussed at the June 2006 plenary session and coordination of work on globalization statistics was considered necessary. The TOR of the Working Group on the Impact of Globalization on National Accounts (WGIGNA) were approved by electronic consultation in April 2007.
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>The report by the Working Group will be submitted to the CES 2010 plenary session.</i></b>

**SA 3.3.6 Sustainable development**

History:	The Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development (WGSSD) was set up in October 2005.
June 2008 CES:	The Conference discussed the <i>Report on Statistics for Sustainable Development</i> prepared by the WGSSD and the proposal by the CES Bureau for further work. There was general support for continuing the work in this area. With finalizing the Report, the WGSSD has fulfilled its mandate.
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>The Bureau will discuss the updated Terms of Reference for the creation of a new Task Force on Measuring Sustainable Development in February 2009.</i></b>

**SA 3.3.7 Climate change**

October 2008:	The Bureau discussed possible future activities in the area of climate change in the framework of the UNECE Statistical Programme 2009.
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>The Bureau will decide in February 2009 on the contents of work on climate change taking into account the outcome of the meeting in Korea in December 2008 and the programme review of climate change and official statistics to be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission in February 2009.</i></b>

**SA 4.3.2 Business and agricultural censuses and registers**

February 2008:	The Bureau approved the proposal for the Organising Committee on Business Registers.
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>The Bureau will consider again the need for an Organising Committee on business registers in October 2009 following the Seminar on Business Registers to be held in June 2009.</i></b>

**SA 4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing**

October 2008:	The Bureau was informed that the in-depth review on publication, communication and dissemination issues was postponed to October 2009. The Bureau discussed the UNECE contribution to UNData in the context of the UNECE Statistical Programme 2009.
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>i) The in-depth review on publication, communication and dissemination issues will take place in October 2009; ii) The statistical dissemination, communication and publications will be discussed at the CES 2009 plenary session to provide input to the in-depth review by the Bureau; the UNECE secretariat will make a proposal on how to consider the topic at the CES plenary session; iii) UNSD offered to provide more detail on UNData at the October 2009 meeting of the Bureau.</i></b>

**SA 4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection**

February 2007:	The Bureau approved the TOR for the Task Force on Confidentiality and Privacy Issues in Integrated Data Sets.
October 2008:	The Bureau reviewed the updated draft Set of Principles and Practices for the Creation and Use of Integrated Datasets.
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>i) The Bureau will consider the updated Principles in February 2009. ii) The Principles will be submitted to the CES plenary session for approval in 2009.</i></b>

**SA 5.4 Management and development of human resources**

History:	In June 2006, the CES seminar on <i>Human resources and training</i> was held. The Conference considered it necessary to continue to exchange experience in this area.
October 2008	The Bureau was informed about the outcome of the Forum on Human Resources Management and Training that took place on 3-5 September 2008 in Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>The Bureau will review a proposal for follow up work in February 2009.</i></b>

**SA 5.5 Management and development of technological resources**

October 2008:	The Bureau discussed work in this area in the context of the UNECE Statistical Programme 2009.
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>i) The SG on Management of Statistical IT will prepare a paper on challenges in managing IT in statistical offices for the February 2009 Bureau meeting; ii) Management of statistical IT will be added to the list of potential topics for CES seminars.</i></b>

**SA 5.6 Coordination of international statistical work**

February 2008:	The Bureau asked the secretariat to prepare a note concerning the organization and frequency of the Bureau meetings.
October 2008:	The discussion on frequency of Bureau meetings was postponed to February 2009.
<b>Action:</b>	<b><i>The secretariat will prepare an example agenda for a Bureau meeting if it were to take place once a year to be considered at the February 2009 meeting.</i></b>

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