

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting of the 2022/2023 Bureau

Geneva, Switzerland, 15-16 February 2023

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

*The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will take place on 15-16 February 2023 (Wednesday-Thursday) in Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.*

*The meeting will be held in English only. The documents for the meeting will be uploaded on the following website: <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/bureau/CES+Bureau> (username: ces; password: bureau8).*

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## I. OPENING BY PADRAIG DALTON

## II. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

1. The CES Bureau regularly reviews in depth selected statistical areas. The aim of the reviews is to improve coordination of statistical activities in the UNECE region, identify gaps or duplication of work, and address emerging issues. The reviews often lead to new work in topical areas and tangible outputs such as guidelines or recommendations.

### A. Hard-to-reach groups in administrative sources – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/2 by Denmark with contribution from Eurostat)

2. The in-depth review of hard-to-reach groups in administrative sources will be based on a paper by Denmark, with contribution by Eurostat. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

### B. Measurement of well-being – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/3 by Israel and Netherlands, with contributions from Ireland, Latvia, Mexico, New Zealand and OECD)

3. The in-depth review of measurement of well-being will be based on a paper by Israel and Netherlands, with contributions by Ireland, Latvia, Mexico, New Zealand and OECD. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

### C. Social cohesion – *for discussion and recommendations*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/4 by Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Poland, UK and OECD)

4. The in-depth review of measurement of social cohesion will be based on a paper by Canada, with input from Ireland, New Zealand, Poland, UK and OECD. **Additional contributions from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

### D. Selection of topics for in-depth reviews in 2023-2024 and CES 2023 plenary session – *for decision*

(ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/5 by UNECE)

5. The Bureau will be invited to select the topics to be reviewed in-depth in 2022-2023 based on a proposal prepared by the Secretariat, and select the topic for the second seminar at the 2023 CES plenary session (the topic for the first seminar was already agreed).

## III. UNECE STATISTICAL WORK AND CES TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

6. The work of steering groups and task forces set up by the CES Bureau is reviewed under this agenda item. The groups are created for a particular task with concrete terms of reference, output, timeframe and a sunset clause. The work results in methodological and practical guidelines, collections of leading practices and training materials available on the web. The terms

of reference of active steering groups and task forces are available at <http://www.unece.org/statistics/networks-of-experts.html>.

**A. Quality of employment (extension of TOR) – for decision**  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/6 by UNECE)

7. The CES Bureau set up the Steering Group on Quality of Employment in October 2015 to guide the CES work in this area, support the implementation of the recommendations of the *Handbook on Measuring Quality of Employment, A statistical Framework* (2015), maintain the statistical framework presented in the Handbook to ensure its relevance and practical usability, and organise biennial expert meetings on the topic.

8. Under the Steering Group, a Task Force prepared a *Handbook on Forms of Employment which was endorsed by CES in 2022*. In October 2022, the Bureau supported further work on the topic led by a subgroup on forms of employment under the Steering Group.

9. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the progress report which describes the results of the Steering Group's work from 2018 to 2022, and review and approve the updated Terms of Reference of the Steering Group on Quality of Employment for the period of 2023 to 2028.

**B. Migration statistics (focus of future work) – for decision**  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/7 by the Steering Group)

10. At its October 2022 meeting, the UNECE Group of experts on migration statistics expressed strong support for launching new methodological work on *measuring emigration*. Taking into account the recent discussions by the Bureau about the importance of improving the timeliness of official statistics, the Group of experts also considered “*improving the timeliness of migration statistics and their communication*” as an alternative topic.

11. Based on a note by the Steering Group on migration statistics, the Bureau will be invited to discuss and decide on the topic of future work to be pursued by a task force.

**C. Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (former Joint Task Force) (TOR) – for decision**  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/8 by UNECE)

12. The Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators, set up in 2009, is a joint body of two UNECE Sectoral Committees: the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) and the Conference of European Statisticians, targeting the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

13. In February 2021, the CES Bureau approved the extension of its mandate until June 2023. The CES Bureau also supported setting it up as a standing body under the CES and CEP, and extending its work to other interested countries when the new TOR will be prepared in 2023.

14. The CEP extended the mandate and terms of reference of the Task Force until the end of 2023 in October 2022. The Committee also took note of the proposal to convert the Joint Task Force into a standing body and decided to have an in-depth discussion on this topic at its next regular session in November 2023.

15. The Joint Task Force supported its conversion into a standing body with a broadened mandate, scope and geographical coverage at its nineteenth session (Geneva, 2-3 November 2022). As an indication of interest of a wider group of countries, eleven countries from outside

the EECCA and SEE region participated in the meeting. The group will be named the Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators. The meeting requested the Secretariat to submit a relevant proposal to the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians.

16. The Bureau will be invited to approve the proposed new mandate and terms of reference for a Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators as a standing body of the Conference of European Statisticians. Subject to the approval of the Bureau the proposal will be submitted to the 2023 CES plenary session for endorsement.

**D. HLG-MOS (extension of TOR) – *for decision***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/9 and Add.1-2 by HLG-MOS)

17. The HLG-MOS was set up in 2010 to oversee development of frameworks, and sharing of information, tools and methods to support the modernisation of statistical organizations. Most recently the Bureau approved the updated Terms of Reference for the HLG-MOS in February 2020 and extended its mandate until 2022. In 2020 the Bureau reconfirmed the objectives of the group to (i) promote common standards, models, tools and methods to support the modernisation of official statistics; (ii) drive new developments in the production, organization and products of official statistics; and (iii) advise the CES Bureau on the direction of strategic developments in the modernisation of official statistics.

18. The group has regularly provided annual reports on implementation of its work plan to the Bureau and CES.

19. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the extension of the mandate of HLG-MOS, the outcomes of the work in 2022 and plans for 2023, including the selected priority projects.

**E. Access to privately held data (proposal) – *for decision***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/10 by Canada, Ireland, Poland, Spain, Eurostat, OECD and UNECE)

20. The CES Bureau considered the next steps in the work on collaboration with private data providers in October 2022, as a follow-up to the CES 2022 session on that topic, and the common CES position statement.

21. The Bureau expressed strong support to undertake further work related to access to privately held data, and asked the Secretariat and the countries and organizations involved in preparing the CES session and the position statement (i.e., Canada, Ireland, Poland, Spain and OECD) to make a more concrete proposal for follow-up work on this topic to the Bureau meeting in February 2023.

22. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the proposal for further work prepared by the group of countries and organizations.

**IV. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS – FOLLOW-UP TO DISCUSSION IN OCTOBER 2022 - *for discussion and recommendations***  
(ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/11 by UNECE)

23. The Bureau had an open discussion about issues of strategic importance for official statistics, the work of NSOs and the Conference of European Statisticians in October 2022, covering challenges, opportunities, changes of internal or external origin.

24. The Bureau is invited to consider how to take on board the outcome of this discussion in the work of the CES and Bureau, based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

## **V. PREPARATION OF THE CES 2023 PLENARY SESSION**

### **A. Seminar session on data ethics – *for discussion and recommendations*** (ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/12 by UK et al.)

25. In October 2022 the Bureau supported the idea of having one of the seminar sessions on data ethics, and possibly more widely on social acceptability of the work of national statistical offices (in the context of a changing role of NSOs in data ecosystems, protection of privacy, access to privately held data, communicating the value of official statistics, improving statistical literacy, strategic communication etc.). The session can also provide ideas for further work related to the value of official statistics.

26. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the organization of the session based on an outline by the UK and other countries involved in its organization.

### **B. Second seminar session at CES – *for decision*** (ECE/CES/ BUR/2023/FEB/13 by UNECE)

27. The topic for the second CES seminar session will be chosen based on the outcome of the electronic consultation on topics that the Secretariat will carry out in January 2023. In October 2022, measurement of well-being or measuring circular economy were mentioned as possible topics for the second CES seminar session.

28. The Bureau will be informed about the outcome of the electronic consultation and will be invited to select the topic for the second seminar session and its organiser(s).

### **C. Draft agenda and timetable for the 2023 CES plenary session – *for decision*** (ECE/CES/ BUR/2023/FEB/14 by UNECE)

29. The CES 2023 plenary session is planned to take place during the week of 26-30 June 2023 in Paris, back-to-back with the OECD CSSP meeting (the dates and venue still to be confirmed).

30. The Bureau will be invited to approve the provisional agenda of the CES 2023 plenary session based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

## **VI. CES GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENDORSEMENT IN 2023**

31. The CES Bureau will be invited to review the draft guidelines and recommendations planned to be submitted to CES for endorsement in June 2023 and decide if they can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session.

### **A. Core values of official statistics – *for decision*** (ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/15 by the Task Team)

32. The CES 2022 plenary session endorsed the proposed list of core values and their descriptions, and the mappings of core values to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and other standards. The Conference asked the Task Team to elaborate behaviours that demonstrate the implementation of the core values and the Fundamental Principles in practice. The Bureau discussed the work in October 2022 and approved the current direction of this work.

The description of behaviours is expected to be submitted to the CES 2023 plenary session for endorsement.

33. The Bureau will be invited to review the draft document by the Task Team, and decide if it can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the document will be submitted to the 2023 CES plenary session for endorsement.

**B. Data stewardship – for decision**

(ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/16 by the Task Team)

34. The CES Bureau set up a Task Force on data stewardship in February 2021 to clarify the terms related to data stewardship and public data governance, and the tasks of NSOs that this may include in different settings. The first draft of the report by the Task Force was sent for electronic consultation to all CES members in spring 2022. The feedback provided a lot of support and many constructive comments to improve the document. The Task Force has updated the report *Data stewardship and the role of national statistical offices in the new data ecosystem*, taking into account the comments and the latest developments.

35. The Bureau will be invited to review the draft *Data stewardship and the role of national statistical offices in the new data ecosystem*, and decide if the document can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the document will be submitted to the 2023 CES plenary session for endorsement.

**C. Measuring circular economy – for decision**

(ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/17 by the Task Team)

36. The Bureau set up a Task Force on measuring circular economy in February 2021 to draft practical guidelines for measuring circular economy, including clarification of key terms and definitions, identifying the data sources and key statistics and indicators needed from the policy point of view, and describing the required institutional collaboration.

37. The CES Bureau will be invited to review the draft *UNECE/OECD Guidelines for measuring circular economy, Part A: Monitoring framework and indicators*, and decide if the document can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the Guidelines will be submitted to the 2023 CES plenary session for endorsement.

**D. Hazardous events and disasters – for decision**

(ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/18 by the Task Team)

38. The Bureau set up the Task Force on measuring hazardous events and disasters in February 2020 to support the implementation of the *CES Recommendations on measuring hazardous events and disasters* (2019), including developing implementation guidance, recommending a set of core statistics and indicators, contributing to the work at the global level on statistical operationalisation of Sendai Framework terminology and indicator methodologies, and establishing a community of practice for exchange of experience and knowledge.

39. The Bureau will be invited to review the set of core disaster-risk related indicators developed by the Task Force, and decide if the document can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session. Subject to a positive outcome

of the consultation, the set of indicators will be submitted to the 2023 CES plenary session for endorsement.

**VII. UNECE STATISTICS PROGRAMME OF WORK DOCUMENTS – *for decision***  
(ECE/CES/ BUR/2022/FEB/19-21 by UNECE)

40. Under this agenda item, the Bureau will be invited to review and approve documents related to the implementation of the UNECE Statistics subprogramme prepared in the context of the United Nations secretariat’s planning and reporting process. These include:

- (a) Report on the implementation of the Statistical Programme 2022;
- (b) Draft programme of work document for 2024;
- (c) Outline of key components of the programme of work of Statistics subprogramme for 2025.

41. The Bureau will be also informed about the preparations of the 2023 ECE Commission session. The overarching topic for the session will be “Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the UNECE region”. All ECE Committees, including CES, will be asked to contribute to the session with an overview of relevant ongoing work.

**VIII. DATES AND VENUES OF NEXT MEETINGS – *for decision***

42. The Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venues of the next CES Bureau meetings and CES plenary sessions.

43. At its October 2022 meeting, the Bureau decided on its next meetings as follows:

- 11-12 October 2023 (UK offered to host the meeting)
- 14-15 February 2024
- 15-16 October 2024

44. The 71st CES plenary session is planned to take place during the week of 26-30 June 2023 in Paris, back-to-back with the meeting of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP).

45. The 72nd CES plenary session is proposed to take place during the week of 24-28 June in Geneva, back-to-back with the CSSP meeting. The CES plenary session will include a joint session with the UN-GGIM: Europe.

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

46. Any other topics can be taken up under this agenda item.

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