

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting of the 2023/2025 Bureau

Geneva, Switzerland, 14-15 February 2024

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau meeting will take place on 14-15 February 2024 (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. Linking data across domains and sources – *for discussion and recommendations* (ECE/CES/BUR/2024/FEB/2 by Canada with inputs from Poland, et al.)

2. The in-depth review of linking data across domains and sources will be based on a paper by Canada with inputs from Poland and other countries. **Additional contributions (as short written notes) from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

B. Timeliness, frequency and granularity of official statistics – *for discussion and recommendations* (ECE/CES/BUR/2024/FEB/3 led by Canada and Portugal)

3. The in-depth review of timeliness, frequency and granularity of official statistics will be based on a paper by Canada and Portugal. **Additional contributions (as short written notes) from the CES Bureau members are welcome in advance of the Bureau meeting.**

C. Selection of topics for in-depth reviews in 2024-2025 and CES 2024 plenary session – *for decision* (ECE/CES/BUR/2024/FEB/5 and 5/Add.1 by UNECE)

4. The Bureau discussed in October 2023 a list of possible topics for the in-depth reviews and CES seminars to be held in October 2024 and February 2025. In January 2024, the list was circulated for electronic consultation and indications of preferences to all CES members. The Secretariat has summarised the replies. The Bureau will be invited to select the topics based on the outcome of the consultation and a proposal prepared by the Secretariat.

III. UNECE STATISTICAL WORK AND CES TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

5. 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. Migration and mobility (TOR) – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2024/FEB/6 by UNECE)

6. The CES Bureau discussed the definitions of international migration and mobility in October 2023. It was noted that the concepts and definitions developed under the existing international initiatives would need to be expanded with definitions of specific population groups and types of migration and mobility, proposing more detailed definitions and developing concepts for new forms of migration and mobility.

7. The Bureau decided that a new task force would need to be established for defining and measuring new forms of migration. The Steering Group on migration statistics and the UNECE Secretariat were asked to prepare the terms of reference for the Bureau's review in February 2024, in cooperation with the countries and organizations that supported this new initiative — Albania, Mexico, Poland, United Kingdom and OECD.

8. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the Terms of Reference of the Task Force on new forms of migration and mobility.

B. Data stewardship (TOR) – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2024/FEB/7 by UNECE)

9. The CES endorsed the report *Data stewardship and the role of national statistical offices in the new data ecosystem* in June 2023. In October 2023, the Bureau discussed further work in this area based on a proposal prepared by Estonia, Canada and UNECE. The Bureau highlighted the importance of continuing work on data stewardship and supported the establishment of a task force to work on: (i) identifying core responsibilities of NSOs as data stewards; and (ii) providing a forum for systematisation and exchange of experience in implementing data stewardship.

10. The Bureau will be invited to review and approve the terms of reference for a Task Force on implementation of data stewardship.

C. Population and housing censuses (progress report) – for discussion and recommendations

(ECE/CES/BUR/2024/FEB/8 by the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses)

11. In February 2021 the Bureau approved the work plan for developing the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses for the 2030 round (ECE/CES/BUR/2021/FEB/6), prepared by the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses. This work plan included the establishment of 13 thematic task forces to develop specific sections of the Recommendations.

12. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the progress report, which describes the work of the 13 Task Forces and the Steering Group since the commencement of their work in 2022, as well as outlining the plans for continuing the work in 2024 and for ensuring its alignment with the corresponding processes at the global level and in other world regions.

D. Modernization of official statistics - report on 2023 and plans for 2024 – for decision

(ECE/CES/BUR/2024/FEB/4 and Add.1 by HLG-MOS)

13. The Bureau will be invited to review the outcomes of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) work in 2023 and plans for 2024, including the selected priority projects.

E. Environmental Statistics and Indicators – *for discussion and recommendations*

14. Since 2009, a UNECE Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators has been holding meetings as a joint body under two UNECE Sectoral Committees: the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) and the Conference of European Statisticians. The group has been extended many times to provide a mandate for the following two years. In February 2023, the CES Bureau decided to convert it into a standing body under the CES and CEP, called a Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators, and approved its Terms of Reference. The CES plenary session endorsed the TOR in June 2023.

15. However, the Committee on Environmental Policy at its November 2023 session did not approve the TOR of the group, and requested for more detail on its operating modalities. The Bureau will be informed about the developments and will be invited to propose ways forward.

F. Information about recent outputs by the UNECE Statistical Division – *for information*

16. The Bureau will be informed about some notable outputs under the CES work programme issued recently.

17. Since 2020, the UNECE Statistical Division is preparing an annual **report on progress assessment on SDGs in the UNECE region**. The report is based on the data available in the UNECE statistical database and contributions from different UN regional agencies and country teams. The report provides an important input to the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. The 2024 report is planned to be issued just before the CES Bureau meeting.

18. **An online inventory of thematic and extended accounts** providing information about 950 accounts from almost one hundred countries, covering around 40 different topics, such as SEEA, tourism, culture, digital economy, human capital, unpaid household work, healthcare, water, energy, minerals, etc. The inventory is prepared in cooperation with UNSD, as a follow-up to an in-depth review on this topic in 2019.

IV. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS – FOLLOW-UP TO DISCUSSION IN OCTOBER 2023 - *for discussion and recommendations*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2024/FEB/9 by UNECE)

19. 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 2023, covering challenges, opportunities, changes of internal or external origin. It was agreed that a short summary paper on strategic directions will be presented to the CES 2024 plenary session as a basis for a joint discussion with the geospatial experts.

20. 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 2024 PLENARY SESSION

A. First seminar session at CES 2024 – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2024/FEB/10 by UNECE)

21. The topic for the first CES seminar session will be chosen based on the outcome of the electronic consultation on topics that the Secretariat will carry out in January 2024.

22. The Bureau will be invited to choose the topic and discuss the organization of the session.

B. Second seminar session at CES 2024 – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/ BUR/2024/FEB/11 by UNECE)

23. The topic for the first CES seminar session will be chosen based on the outcome of the electronic consultation on topics that the Secretariat will carry out in January 2024.

24. The Bureau will be invited to choose the topic and discuss the organization of the session.

C. Draft agenda and timetable for the 2024 CES plenary session – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/ BUR/2024/FEB/12 by UNECE)

25. The CES 2024 plenary session is planned to take place during the week of 17-21 June 2024, back-to-back with the OECD CSSP meeting (the exact dates and venue to be confirmed).

26. The Bureau will be invited to approve the provisional agenda of the CES 2024 plenary session based on a proposal by the Secretariat.

VI. CES GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENDORSEMENT IN 2024

27. The CES Bureau will be invited to review the draft guidelines and recommendations planned to be submitted to CES for endorsement in June 2024 and decide if they can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members before the CES plenary session.

A. Role of national statistical offices in achieving national climate objectives – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2024/FEB/13 by the Task Force)

28. In February 2022, the CES Bureau established a Task Force to develop guidance on how national statistical offices can contribute to achieving national climate objectives. The guidance will identify concrete ways in which NSOs can be involved and showcase what the statistical system already offers to support climate action.

29. The CES Bureau will be invited to review the draft *Guidance on the role of national statistical offices in achieving national climate objectives* at its February 2024 meeting, and decide if it can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the document will be submitted to the 2024 CES plenary session for endorsement.

30. The CES Bureau will also be informed about the outcomes of the UNECE COP28 side event “Enabling climate action through data, transparency and finance”, where the Guidance was presented, and invited to provide guidance regarding possible next steps.

B. Subjective poverty measures – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2024/FEB/14 by the Task Force)

31. In February 2022, the CES Bureau established a Task Force to develop a guide on measuring subjective poverty, including a set of subjective poverty indicators that could be used for international comparison.

32. The CES Bureau will be invited to review the draft *Guide on measuring subjective poverty* at its February 2024 meeting and decide if it can be sent for an electronic consultation to all CES

members. Subject to a positive outcome of the consultation, the document will be submitted to the 2024 CES plenary session for endorsement.

C. The Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM, version 2.0) – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/BUR/2024/FEB/15 by the Task Team)

33. The Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM, version 1.2) was endorsed by the Conference in 2019. It is currently being revised to develop into a new version (2.0). Its public review is planned by the end of 2023, so that it can be submitted to the CES in 2024.

VII. UNECE STATISTICS PROGRAMME OF WORK DOCUMENTS – *for decision*
(ECE/CES/ BUR/2024/FEB/16, 17, 18 by UNECE)

34. 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 2023;
- (b) Draft programme of work document for 2024;
- (c) Outline of key components of the programme of work of Statistics subprogramme for 2025.

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

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

36. At its October 2023 meeting, the Bureau decided on its next meetings as follows:

- 15-16 October 2024 in Poland (the Central Statistical Office of Poland offered to host the meeting)
- 12-13 February 2025
- 15-16 October 2025

37. The 72nd CES plenary session is planned to take place during the week of 17-21 June 2024 (exact dates and venue tbc).

38. The 73rd CES plenary session will take place during the week of 16-20 June (exact dates and venue tbc).

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

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

40. The Bureau will be informed about a planned side-event during the UN Statistical Commission on the future work programme of the CES – blue skies thinking for medium/long-term.

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