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STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Forty-sixth plenary session  
(Paris, 18-20 May 1998)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL  
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 1998/99 AND 1999/2000:  
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Post plenary session version)

**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 1  
ORGANISATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES**

The format of this integrated presentation

1. This is intended to be a fully integrated presentation of international work programmes in the ECE region. That is to say it includes not only the statistical work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), but also the relevant statistical work carried out in the ECE region by the Commission of the European Communities, OECD, the UN Statistical Division (UNSD), ILO, WHO, IMF, the World Trade Organization (ex GATT), the World Bank, The Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) and many other agencies. The programmes are presented in six separate documents - one for each domain in the Conference's programme of work - as follows:

Programme Activity 1: Organization and Operation of statistical services  
(CES/1998/34/Add.1)

Programme Activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues  
(CES/1998/34/Add.2)

Programme Activity 3: Economic statistics (CES/1998/34/Add.3)

Programme Activity 4: Social and demographic statistics (CES/1998/34/Add.4)

Programme Activity 5: Environment statistics (CES/1998/34/Add.5)

Programme Activity 6: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities  
(CES/1998/34/Add.6)

2. The integrated presentation is prepared annually, according to the following timetable:

i) December-January: The ECE secretariat obtains information from the other organizations on their programmes of work and prepares a first draft of the integrated presentation for review by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians at its February meeting of each year.

ii) February-May: The integrated presentation is updated and amended to include the Bureau's recommended decisions to the Conference in each field of statistics, and it is presented in draft form for review by the Conference at its annual meeting in May.

iii) July-August: The integrated presentation is amended to reflect the decisions taken by the Conference at its May meeting concerning its own work programme, and it is issued in its final form for the forthcoming two-year period.

3. Thus, the material presented in the six documents referred to above contains updated text that organizations have supplied to the secretariat for inclusion in this updated version of the integrated presentation which was considered by the Conference at its 1998 plenary session. In addition to providing updated information on the planned future work programmes of the different international organizations in different fields of statistics, it lists in each programme element of the Integrated Presentation the issues that the Bureau of the Conference had brought to the attention of the Conference at the plenary session. It also lists the various decisions that the Conference took at the plenary session under each of the programme elements.

4. Each programme activity is sub-divided into a number of programme elements, and each programme element is described within the following framework:

**OBJECTIVES OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS** Broad aims of national statistical offices for international work in that field over the next several years.

**EXPECTED COLLECTIVE OUTPUT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS** Specific outputs expected by countries in the next two years.

**ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE WAS DRAWN TO THE FOLLOWING** List of issues in each field of statistics that the Bureau of the Conference brought to the attention of the Conference at its plenary session.

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE AT THE 1998 PLENARY SESSION** List of decisions taken by the Conference on its programme of work at the 1998 plenary session.

**MEETINGS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS:** Sponsoring agency, title, date.

**RAPPORTEUR:** International organization that the Conference has recommended be assigned responsibility for preparing short issue- and strategic-oriented reports for the Bureau and for assessing on behalf of the Conference progress towards the objectives and outputs specified for a programme element.

**ACTIVITIES AND MEANS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS** Description of the major activities of agencies in that field from mid-May 1998 to June 2000. Information is also given in this section on ECE resource implications for the work to be carried out by the ECE secretariat. The resource implications are classified as follows: minimal (less than 3 work months); moderate (3-6 work months); and substantial (over 6 work months).

#### Priority menus

5. The "priority menu" summarizing the major types of activities the Conference plans to work on during the next two years in all projects in the programme activity is given at the end of this addendum.

#### List of programme elements in the programme of work of the Conference

6. The list of programme elements in the whole programme of work of the Conference is given in Table 1, together with an indication of the document in which information for that programme element can be found.

#### Other related information

7. As the Integrated Presentation is being presented in the same format in six separate documents, this explanatory note on the format of the presentation is being reproduced in each of the documents. A separate short document (CES/1998/34) describes the background to the development of the format used here and provides additional information including an explanation of acronyms used.

**Table 1. List of programme elements in the programme of work of the Conference (together with an indication of the document in which information for that programme element can be found)**

Programme Activity	Programme Element
<u>Programme Activity 1:</u> Organization and Operation of statistical services (See document <b>CES/1998/34/Add.1</b> )	1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work 1.2 Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices 1.3 Countries in transition in the ECE region 1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including countries in the Mediterranean region)
<u>Programme Activity 2:</u> Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (See document <b>CES/1998/34/Add.2</b> )	2.1 Management of information technology infrastructure 2.2 Statistical data collection and processing 2.3 Dissemination and interchange of statistical information 2.4 Statistical classifications 2.5 Statistical research and development 2.6 Geographical and regional data 2.7 Human resource development
<u>Programme Activity 3:</u> Economic statistics (See document <b>CES/1998/34/Add.3</b> )	3.1 Implementation of the system of national accounts 3.2 Money and banking, government finance, and balance of payments 3.3 International trade in goods 3.4 Transport 3.5 Distributive trades 3.6 International trade in services 3.7 Tourism 3.8 Other marketed services, and non-marketed services 3.9 Price statistics, including purchasing power parities 3.10 Agricultural statistics 3.11 Industrial statistics 3.12 Energy statistics 3.13 Science and technology statistics 3.14 Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics 3.XX Other work in the field of economic statistics

Programme Activity	Programme Element
<p><u>Programme Activity 4</u>: Social and demographic statistics (See document <b>CES/1998/34/Add.4</b>)</p>	<p>4.1 Social indicators and frameworks            4.2 Gender statistics            4.3 Multi-purpose social surveys            4.4 Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics            4.5 Population and housing censuses            4.6 Health statistics            4.7 Crime and criminal justice statistics            4.8 Education and training statistics            4.9 Culture statistics            4.10 Labour statistics            4.11 Demographic statistics (including projections, migration, fertility and families and households)            4.12 Human settlements and housing statistics            4.13 Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income inequality            4.14 Statistics on population groups of special interest</p>
<p><u>Programme Activity 5</u>: Environment statistics (See document <b>CES/1998/34/Add.5</b>)</p>	<p>5.1 Sectoral concepts, definitions and classifications            5.2 Environmental accounting            5.3 Environmental databases and reporting</p>
<p><u>Programme Activity 6</u>: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (See document <b>CES/1998/34/Add.6</b>)</p>	<p>6.1 Coordination of international data collection            6.2 Other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat</p>

## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 1**

### **ORGANISATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES**

#### **1.1 PROMOTION AND COORDINATION OF MULTILATERAL STATISTICAL WORK**

**Objectives over the next several years** To manage multilateral relations between international statistical organizations on matters relating to national statistical offices; to ensure minimal duplication in data collection from member countries; to ensure the consistency of published data; to promote coherence in the agenda of statistical committees, working parties, task forces and groups so that international exchanges of views are mutually reinforcing; and to promote the adoption of unified work programmes with a consistent view of priorities.

**Expected collective output in the next two years** Decisions by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) to the ECE secretariat on the Conference's own work programme and (at the request of one of the Conference's parent bodies, the Economic Commission for Europe) on the work programme of the ECE's Population Activities Unit, and guidance by the Conference to other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies and to other international and supranational organizations on statistically-related activities in their work programmes. Periodic agreements and protocols with wide dissemination on unified questionnaires, single data bases, work programmes and meeting agendas. Submission to such fora as the plenary session of the CES and the UN Statistical Commission of integrated work programmes and streamlined programmes of data collection. Actual demonstration of consistency in the data dissemination by international statistical offices.

#### **Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following**

- The initiative taken by the Chair to invite the ISI to form an international group of academic statisticians that could provide the Bureau and the Conference with feedback on the Integrated Presentation.
- The report that the ad hoc group (established by the UN Statistical Commission to explore new approaches to the structure and operation of the Statistical Commission) prepared for discussion at the February 1998 meeting of the UNSC's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination.

#### **Decisions taken by the Conference at the 1998 plenary session**

- The Conference noted that the discussion which it had had in the seminar portion of the plenary session on the topic "Relations between Statistical Offices and Governments" dealt with issues such as integrity, professionalism and competence that affect both national and international statistical services. It was the sense of the Conference that a critical determinant of the professional integrity of international statistical organizations - and indirectly of the international statistical system - is the professional competence of the heads and of the staff of these organizations. The Conference therefore asked the Bureau to communicate to the Executive Secretary of

the ECE the importance that the Conference attaches to the professional competence of the Director and staff of the ECE Statistical Division, and to the process which is used to appoint them. The Conference also asked the Bureau to communicate the same views - in the name of OECD member countries participating in the 1998 plenary session of the Conference - to the Secretary General of the OECD with respect to the Director and staff of the Statistics Directorate of the OECD.

- The Conference agreed that the ECE Statistical Division is already collaborating closely and in a partnership relationship with Eurostat, OECD, the UN Statistical Division and other international organizations in carrying out the Conference's programme of work and also, to a considerable extent, in the secretariats' collection of statistics from ECE member countries.
- The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (See the "Activities and Means" section below)

**Meetings from mid-May 1998 to June 2000:**

ECE-OECD-Eurostat: Joint Programme Review Meetings (Annual)

ECE-Eurostat-OECD: Numerous meetings of various Intersecretariat Working Groups.

UNSD: United Nations Statistical Commission meeting (1998/99)

UNSD: ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities

**Rapporteur: ECE**

**Activities and means from mid-May 1998 to June 2000**

**Task Forces engaged in coordination:**

The UN Statistical Commission has set up intersecretariat working groups to deal with coordination issues and related matters in the following fields of statistics. (Additional information on the work of these working groups is presented in other parts of the integrated presentation, as indicated.)

- a) Task force on national accounts (see project 3.1 in CES/1998/34/Add.3).
- b) Task force on finance statistics (see project 3.2 in document CES/1998/34/Add.3).
- c) Task force on trade statistics (see project 3.3 in CES/1998/34/Add.3).
- d) Task force on services statistics (see project 3.6 in document CES/1998/34/Add.3).
- e) Task force on price statistics including the International Comparison Programme (see project 3.9 in CES/1998/34/Add.3).
- f) Task force on environment statistics (see CES/1998/34/Add.5).

**Activities of ECE:**

- a) Coordinate the production of the integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes involving countries in the ECE region, based on input provided by ECE, Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, the UN specialized agencies and others.

- b) Collaborate, with Eurostat and OECD, in organizing Inter-secretariat Working Group meetings in individual fields of statistics and in organizing Joint Programme Review meetings periodically to deal with potential problematic issues.
- c) Coordination of statistical work undertaken by other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies and/or by ECE Divisions.

Secretariat resources: Substantial.

**Activities of OECD:** Continued cooperation with other international institutions, particularly through the participation in the Joint Programme Review meetings and regular contacts with other major players.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (Theme 91 - International relations):

Eurostat will continue to participate as an active observer in the various international fora for statistics: the biennial United Nations Statistical Commission and its Working Group and the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau. The main purpose of this participation is to ensure that the European Commission's voice is heard during the process of the setting of global standards in statistics and the management of the global statistical system.

**Activities of other organizations:**

**UN Statistics Division:**

- a) Development of concepts and methods and improving coordination of programmes of environmental statistics and accounting in cooperation with UNEP, OECD, Eurostat, the World Bank and other international organizations.
- b) Work in the harmonization of international economic and social classifications in cooperation with a broad representation of countries and agencies active in this field.
- c) Serving as a secretariat to the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (Eurostat, OECD, IMF and World Bank) aiming at the coordination of multilateral efforts to support the implementation of the 1993 SNA.
- d) Promotion of multilateral consultations of experts to address "Critical Problems in Economic Statistics". In this context UNSD is facilitating the creation of so called city-groups i.e. informal consultation groups (see programme element 3.XX).
- e) Coordination of international statistical work in the field of trade statistics UNSD (in cooperation with ECE, EUROSTAT, OECD and other international organizations).
- f) Participation in the steering committee (Australia, Canada, India, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the World Bank and UNSD) to oversee the evaluation process of the International Comparison Programme.

**International Monetary Fund (IMF):**

- a) Convener of the: (i) Steering Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the Former Soviet Union;



- (ii) IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics; and (iii) Interagency Task Force on Finance Statistics.
- b) Membership in the interagency task forces: (i) Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts; (ii) Task Force on Merchandise Trade Statistics; (iii) Task Force on Environment Statistics; and (iii) Task Force on Service Statistics
- c) Participation in the management of global statistical system through: (i) the biennial sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission; (ii) the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities; and (iii) the work of the UN regional commission's statistical activities, including the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau (as an observer).
- d) Cooperation with EUROSTAT, EMI, and OECD in areas of common concerns.

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States**

The Committee's activities are focused on coordinating statistical work and aligning and harmonizing statistical tools with international standards in the areas of the system of national accounts, economic, demographic and social statistics and processing of data and information of the Commonwealth member countries.

Materials in preparation are discussed by the CIS-STAT Scientific Council, task forces and ad hoc meetings. Once finalized, they are circulated as recommendations to national statistical services. The methodological materials are published in the information bulletins issued six times a year for wide application by a variety of users.

Advisory services are provided by CIS-STAT free of charge.

**1.2 MANAGEMENT AND POLICY ISSUES OF DIRECT CONCERN TO PRESIDENTS OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES**

**Objectives over the next several years** To review managerial and statistical policy issues at the international, national and regional (subnational) levels of direct concern to Heads of national statistical offices. To enable heads of national statistical agencies to exchange views and experiences on matters affecting the organization, management and relations with the outside world of the institutions of which they are in charge; to formulate priorities for the development of international statistical standards and methods and to promote their use; to enable heads of statistical agencies to exchange views and experiences on changing statistical requirements that are creating pressures for the reform of statistical policies and institutions. Consideration of issues such as the development strategy of national statistical offices, the overall design and conception of official statistics and professional ethics in statistics. To promote the application of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. To monitor the conflict between increased demand for statistics and shrinking resources. To promote the spread of "best statistical practices" among ECE countries. To enhance the role that statistics play at the national and international level.

**Expected collective output in the next two years** Proceedings of meetings of Heads of Agencies. Minutes of the major Bureau meetings to be available at the plenary session as room documents. Provide examples of the application of the Fundamental Principles and report periodically on them to the ECE on this.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following**

- The Bureau conducted in-depth reviews of programme activities 3 and 5 during its 1997/98 term of office, and it will also conduct in-depth reviews of programme activities 1, 2 and 4 in 1998/99.
- The plan of UNESCO to set up a new international statistical institute.
- The fact that some international organizations working in the ECE region (e.g. the Council of Europe and the OECD) are undergoing a restructuring, and that this could affect their statistical work programmes.
- The continuing work being undertaken by the Council of Europe and Eurostat on the protection of personal data collected and processed for statistical purposes (see the Activities of Eurostat and the Council of Europe in the "Activities and means" section below).

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 1998 plenary session**

- The Conference noted that its methods of work and its operating procedures are already largely aligned with the recommended practices called for at the Commission session and in Commission decision A(53).
- The Conference thanked Eurostat for facilitating the participation of representatives of central and east European countries and of CIS countries in the annual plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians and in selected other high priority meetings in the Conference's work programme, by permitting representatives of the statistical offices of these countries to use the European Commission's PHARE and TACIS funds to finance their participation in these meetings.
- The Conference asked the Bureau of the Conference at its autumn 1998 meeting to look more closely into the approach that the Bureau has recommended the Conference to take in prioritising its work programme (see CES/1998/9), in the light of the stipulations called for both in the Plan of Action and in the decision taken by the Commission concerning this matter at its April 1998 session, particularly with reference to subparagraphs (d) and (e) of para. 6 of CES/1998/15.
- The Conference selected the topic "Performance indicators for statistical offices" as the topic for substantive discussion at its 1999 plenary session.
- The Conference accepted the invitation of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office to convene its 1999 session in Neuchâtelchatel, Switzerland, as a one-time exception to the current practice of holding the plenary sessions in alternate years in Geneva and at the OECD in Paris.
- The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (See the "Activities and Means" section below)

**Meetings from mid-May 1998 to June 2000:**

ECE: Annual plenary session of the Conference (Neuchâtel, June 1999)

ECE: Annual plenary session of the Conference (June 2000)  
ECE: 3-4 meetings of the Bureau of the Conference, annually.  
Eurostat: CEIES - 1 plenary, 4 sub-committees, 2 bureau meetings per year  
(18 September 1998)  
Eurostat: SPC meetings (17 September 1998, 26 November 1998 and March,  
May, September and November of 1999)  
Eurostat: Working Group on Annual Statistical Programme (June 1999)  
Eurostat: DGINS seminar (May 1999)  
ILO: 16th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS)  
(Geneva, 6-15 October 1998)

**Rapporteur:** Statistics Iceland

**Activities and means from mid-May 1998 to June 2000**

**Activities of ECE:**

- a) Annual meetings of the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians.
- b) Regular meetings of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statistician, acting in its capacity as the Steering Committee of the Conference.
- c) Consideration at the forty-seventh (1999) plenary session the topic "Performance indicators for statistical offices" as the topic for substantive discussion.
- d) Preparation of a summary of country reports on the implementation of the Fundamental principles of Official Statistics for the presentation to the Conference (timing to be determined by the CES Bureau).

Secretariat resources: substantial.

**Activities of OECD:** (i) review of the reporting standards in close consultations with member countries and with respect to future member countries; (ii) Assessment of the statistical system of new member countries on the basis of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the established reporting standards.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (Themes 92 - Planning and evaluation of work, 93 - Management of human resources, 94 - Management of financial resources, 96 - Audit, 97 - General administration):

Eurostat is undergoing a period of zero budgetary growth. The main consequence of this is to increase efforts to obtain funding from other services of the Commission to undertake statistical work on their behalf. Owing to current Commission practices it is never entirely clear until a relatively late stage what funding will become available; thus planning for work is difficult. Eurostat's programming process now specifies what work will not be able to be undertaken and what work is contingent on funding from other sources being made available.

**Within Eurostat and the Commission:** Further work will need to be done to consolidate recent advances of principle in planning of work and resources. This will mean: further integration of statistical work of DGs in the Commission Programme of work; improvements in the identification and

resourcing of statistical information needs for new Commission policies; refining of mechanisms to give advanced warning of potentially new areas at Community Policy initiative using internal information systems; assuring the value-added of planning information to facilitate the operational work of Eurostat units; identification of requirements and prototype development of a system for Management information.

Extension of the redeployment policy by defining the non-priority work, the common approaches and human resource exchanges for the 1999 Preliminary Draft Budget. Improvements in recruitment policy. Implementation of the new 1998-2000 Training Plan.

A Commission initiative has introduced important changes to the budgetary and management systems. New efficiency and effectiveness objectives are being set which require increased accountability covering not only compliance with budget but also performance information. Increased administrative efficiency and effectiveness through integrating the decentralised services from DG IX into the DG administration of property in the inventory.

In 1998 the variety of audits into Eurostat's systems, units and projects will continue to be carried out. The aim of these audits is to improve procedures, the quality of the information circulated and the structure of Eurostat wherever necessary.  
Move of Eurostat to the BECH building.

With Eurostat partners outside the institutions consolidation of the planning cycles for Community work with National systems; full integration of the sectoral discussion fora (working groups, Committees etc.) with the SPC for programme planning and execution; completing the LEG's initiative and proposing the framework for this for the future; establish guidelines for programme and project evaluation and continued work on Cost-benefit analysis. Development of co-operation with regard to training with corresponding departments at the NSIs and at other government departments of Member States. Continuation of the policy of co-operation with the NSIs in the management of common human resources (seconded national experts and trainees).

Corporate Planning: finalise and publish the Eurostat Corporate plan; progressively integrate the agreed positive results from the project into the operational reality of Eurostat work; instigate steps investigating the extension of these concepts/approaches across partner organisations in harmony with their own activities of a similar nature; achieve a first level implementation of "Total Quality" approach for Eurostat work.

Protection of personal data collected for statistical purposes  
Eurostat participates in the work being undertaken by the Council of Europe in this field (see Activities of Council of Europe presented below). The role of the European Union in this process was marked by the adoption, in 1995, of Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. In this context, in 1996, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate with the Council of Europe, with the aim of ensuring that the draft Recommendation was compatible with Directive 95/46/EC. DG XV acted as "chef de file", Eurostat acting as associated service. Finally, in early September 1997, following a Recommendation from the Commission, the Council authorised the Member States to approve the Recommendation on behalf of the European Union.

**Activities of other organizations**

**International Monetary Fund (IMF):**

- a) Maintenance of data dissemination standards: (i) a special standard intended to guide member countries that have, or may seek, access to international capital markets (the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) in the dissemination of economic and financial statistics; and (ii) a general standard to guide all member countries (the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) in the dissemination of economic, financial and socio-demographic statistics.
- b) Maintenance of the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board to provide current information (metadata) for data categories comprising the SDDS and supporting information on integrity and quality, including on release schedules.
- c) Phased implementation of the GDDS focused on training and direct work with member countries.

**The ILO:** A proposal for Guidelines on Dissemination Practices supplementing the 1982 ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment to be submitted for approval by the October 1998 International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

**Council of Europe:** In November 1990, the Committee of Experts on Data Protection of the Council of Europe felt that there was a need to define more precise principles on the protection of personal data collected for statistical purposes. After much work and meetings at different levels and several years of discussions, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted, on 30th September 1997, the "Recommendation on the protection of personal data collected and processed for statistical purposes".

This Recommendation applies to the collection and automated processing of personal data for statistical purposes, and to statistical results to the extent that they permit identification of data subjects.

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States**

Efforts will be concentrated on international cooperation in such important areas as synchronization of reforms in national statistics, harmonization of statistical methods around classifiers in general use and other statistical standards, and the creation of a Commonwealth-wide information and statistical space.

Consensus and exchanges of experience are achieved through ad hoc working groups in particular fields of statistics, consultations and exchanges of information and plans, and meetings on subjects and issues of current interest. Final decisions on current problems are taken by the Board of Directors of CIS Statistical Services, which meets at least twice a year.

### 1.3 COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION IN THE ECE REGION

**Objectives over the next several years** To contribute to transferring knowledge concerning statistical priorities and the creation of solid statistical programmes from market economy countries to countries in transition in the ECE region; to contribute to the implementation of international standards in countries in transition in the ECE region; and to provide guidance to countries in transition in the ECE region in their efforts to take on the characteristics required of statistical agencies of market economy countries.

**Expected collective output in the next two years** To ensure that activities undertaken by countries and international and supranational organizations on the above three objectives are carried out in a coordinated and efficient manner.

#### **Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following**

- During 1998/99 and 1999/2000 work by the ECE's Regional Advisor in economic statistics will focus on (i) reviewing methods of measuring capital stocks and consumption of fixed capital in the transition countries and on preparing a Manual containing methodological guidelines in this field; (ii) organizing special sessions for countries in transition at meetings in the areas of national accounts, consumer price indices and PPPs; (iii) providing other types of technical assistance to countries in transition, upon request and within resource limitations; and (iv) working on methodological developments in various areas of CPI and national accounts (e.g. intangibles).
- The ECE, UNFPA and Switzerland jointly organized a Census Donors' Meeting in Geneva in September 1997, to assist the countries of the former Soviet Union and former Yugoslavia in raising funds for their forthcoming censuses as part of the Year 2000 census round.
- The ECE Statistical Division's UNFPA-funded project on population censuses was initiated in August 1997. The project, which is intended to provide training in census-taking to countries in transition in Europe, had by the end of the year provided several technical training missions, a study tour of the pilot census in Belarus and a workshop, attended by all the 15 countries of the former Soviet Union, to discuss the lessons learned from the six pilot censuses in the CIS during 1997.
- A project funded by UNDP and executed by ECE's Statistical Division is intended to assist UNDP with the statistical inputs to its national human development report in countries in transition in Europe and Central Asia. Three workshops have taken place so far on human development/social trends reporting and others, including workshops in social survey method, are planned for 1998.
- ECE's Statistical Division is also the Executing Agency also for a UNDP-funded project to assist Armenia with its pilot census in December 1997 and preparations for the main census which will take place early 1999.
- The fact that both Eurostat and OECD are adapting their work programmes to work more closely with Candidate Countries (in the case of Eurostat) and major economies (in the case of OECD), and that this will affect their statistical work programmes of technical assistance.

- The work that the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are engaged in, in which they are looking into the possibility of drawing up a set of guiding principles for good practices in technical co-operation in statistics (copies of their draft proposal will be distributed by them at the plenary session for information).

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 1998 plenary session**

- The Conference welcomed the back-up support that the ECE Statistical Division is providing to Eurostat to assist it in implementing its MEDSTAT Migration Statistics Project.
- The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (See the "Activities and Means" section below)

**Meetings from mid-May 1998 to June 2000:**

ECE: Training workshops and other activities on selected subjects organized each year for countries in transition under the umbrella of the ECE Statistical Division's UNDP- and UNFPA-financed regional projects on social and demographic statistics (these meetings and activities are not part of the CES work programme)

Eurostat: Working Group: Statistical Co Operation: PHARE and TACIS Dec 98  
Eurostat: Working Group and Steering Committee with Countries of Eastern and Central Europe (once a year)

Eurostat: Working Group, and Steering Committee with NIS and Mongolia (once a year)

IMF: Steering Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the Former Soviet Union (two to three meetings per year)

**Rapporteur:** ECE

**Activities and means in the next two years**

**Activities of ECE:**

- a) Structuring all programme activities and plenary sessions of the Conference to reflect priority concerns of countries in transition.
- b) Assistance and guidance to countries in transition, through services provided to these countries by the ECE Regional Adviser on Statistics.
- c) Participation in inter-agency collaborative efforts aimed at assisting countries in transition
- d) The ECE Statistical Division is the Executing Agency for the following projects:
  - (i) UNDP-financed project on social statistics;
  - (ii) Planned new UNDP-financed statistical project for Bosnia and Herzegovina (if the project document is signed to permit activities in it to commence in the coming months);
  - (iii) UNFPA-financed project on population and housing censuses;
  - (iv) UNDP-financed project to assist Armenia with its pilot census in December 1997 and preparation for the main census.

Secretariat resources: Substantial

**Activities of OECD:** Countries of interest: a restricted group of transition countries (Russian Federation and Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovenia and the Baltic countries). Methods of work: Emphasis will change from providing technical assistance to assessment of the data quality. Priority areas: national accounts, price statistics and purchasing power parities (PPP), short term economic indicators and business and other tendency surveys. Activities: (i) Continued work on PPP (plans to devolve the greater part of this work to the other institutions involved but not until results for all three groups covering the ECE membership have been linked and finalised); (ii) Continued work on enhancement of consumer surveys in Central and Eastern European Countries; (iii) Work to utilise the results of business tendency surveys in conjunction with other short term indicators to determine leading indicators of economic activity in Poland and Hungary, Russian Federation and Ukraine; (iv) Revision of the regular data provision for transition economies to reflect a smaller sub-set of data but on a monthly basis; (v) Development of a series of structural indicators for economies undergoing significant change. (In all these activities there is regular co-ordination and, when appropriate, co-operation with other international organisations.)

**Activities of Eurostat:** (Themes 19 - Technical assistance to countries in transition, 20 - Preparation of enlargement):

a) Co-operation with Central and Eastern European countries (PHARE)  
Continuation of the data-collection and database work on the main indicators and the priority areas to be followed up with a view to integrating the CEECs into an enlarged Europe.

Administration of the statistical side of the PHARE programme and application of the information system for co-ordinating statistical co-operation at G24 level.

Many countries of Eastern and Central Europe are candidates for accession to the EU. The compliance of candidate countries with the statistical legislation will be assessed: this comprises both basic conditions for operating statistics in a democratic society and fulfilment of EU regulations on statistics. This statistical legislation must be made accessible in an appropriate way. In addition, since the majority of Eurostat's collection of statistics does not involve legislation, the non-legally binding requirements must be made accessible.

Eurostat will provide support of the enlargement process with statistical data: this includes the support of enlargement negotiations and the current operation of Europe Agreements. Production of specific output as requested by political authorities: e.g. meetings on political level.

As to macro-economic statistics in connection with accession, 1998 will feature the gradual and total integration of the statistical systems of applicant countries in Eurostat working groups and activities. These countries will have to introduce the entire EU work programme in order to be in a position, on accession, to compile statistics which are comparable in terms of quality and quantity with those of the Member States. For Eurostat, this will mean integrating data from the applicant countries into the Eurostat's databases using the same classification and the same concepts as in EU countries. This storage work will be accompanied by an analysis of concepts of



data quality and of bilateral and multilateral initiatives to improve them. A special effort will be made in connection with purchasing power parities, since those applicant countries which are still in Group 2 of the European comparison (countries in transition) will have to be moved into Group 1 (market economy countries), with very substantial initial investments on their part.

b) Co-operation with the Newly Independent States (TACIS):

Publication of foreign trade and certain countries, Russia.  
Development and extension of the EUROTRACE system to adapt it to the requirements of the NISs. Further technical co-operation and training work. The priority fields include external trade statistics, business statistics and business registers. New specific sectoral priorities defined at national level (in particular in the social area) and a set of priority systemic areas at multi-country level as follows: Practical implementation of the statistical law; Standardisation and training in information technology for statistics; Measure of informal economy; Dissemination policy and practices; Implementation of statistical classifications.

**Activities of other organizations:**

**Activities of the Steering Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the former Soviet Union**

The Steering Committee provides a forum by which international organizations can meet on a regular basis to coordinate their technical assistance plans regarding the FSU countries and share experiences. For this purpose, member organizations are assigned as focal points for the coordination of technical assistance in areas of their concern and expertise the programs of bilateral donors. On-line access to the database is available to members of the Steering Committee and to major bilateral donors. Membership of the Steering Committee comprises the statistical offices/departments of the UN, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, EU, OECD, ILO, IMF, FAO, and the World Bank. Secretariat facilities for the Steering Committee are provided by the IMF.

UN Statistics Division: UNFPA funded project for support of population and housing census activities in six Central Asian Republics (Azerbaijan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan).

The FAO: (i) Work with European Transition Countries to improve national fishery statistics collection; (ii) Services of national consultants for the Russian Federation and the Ukraine; (iii) FAO-operated project funded by Denmark called Eastfish to promote the exchange of fisheries market information amongst Eastern European Countries.

**The ILO:**

- a) Assistance to transition countries to produce reliable and consistent labour statistics for policy making and information needs by means of:  
(i) direct short-term technical missions; (ii) training and (iii) through comprehensive externally funded projects.
- b) Participation in the Steering Committee on the Coordination of technical assistance to countries of FSU.

**International Monetary Fund (IMF):**

- a) Technical assistance program in transition countries on macroeconomic statistics (balance of payments, government finance, and money and banking statistics, prices, external trade, and quarterly national accounts statistics): (i) two to three week on-site missions; (ii) national and regional seminars, workshops, and training courses (Joint Vienna Institute and the IMF Institute in Washington); (iii) services by resident multisector IMF statistical advisors (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Baltic countries).
- b) Participation in the Steering Committee on the Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the Former Soviet Union.

**World Bank:** The World Bank provides technical assistance in the form of grants and loans as well as loan components to strengthen the statistical systems in countries in transition. The projects are aimed to develop statistical infrastructure, address basic issues of data collection and dissemination, and estimation of major macroaggregates needed for economic and social policy.

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States**

CIS-STAT provides technical, advisory and methodological assistance free of charge to countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States with a view to building a single information space within the Commonwealth framework.

**1.4 RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE ECE REGION (INCLUDING COUNTRIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION)**

**Objectives over the next several years** To contribute to transferring knowledge concerning statistical priorities and the creation of solid statistical programmes from market economy countries in the ECE region to countries outside the ECE region; to contribute to the implementation of international standards in countries outside the ECE region; and to provide guidance to countries outside the ECE region in their efforts to take on the characteristics required of statistical agencies of market economy countries.

**Expected collective output in the next two years** To ensure that activities undertaken by countries and international and supranational organizations on the above three objectives are carried out in a coordinated and efficient manner. Periodic consideration by the Bureau of the Conference and by the CES plenary session of ways in which the statistical experience of ECE member countries could effectively be transferred to and /or used by countries outside the ECE region.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following**

- Eurostat's MEDSTAT project aimed at statistical cooperation between EU countries and countries in the Mediterranean region, in the following priority areas: training of statisticians, environment, tourism, external trade, migration, new technologies and transport (see activities of Eurostat below);
- The CESD network, which is a set of elements contributing to the operation of the "European statistical cooperation system" which is a set of associative nonprofit structures through which the European

Commission, and notably Eurostat, and EU Member States can mobilize the resources of the European Statistical System to enable statistical cooperation to be carried out and development policy to be implemented.

- The work that the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are engaged in, in which they are looking into the possibility of drawing up a set of guiding principles for good practices in technical co-operation in statistics.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 1998 plenary session**

- The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (See the "Activities and Means" section below)

**Meetings from mid-May 1998 to June 2000:**

Eurostat: Task Force on MEDSTAT (8-9 June, 1-2 September, 3-4 November and 1-2 December 1998)

Eurostat: Management Committee: Mediterranean, 20-21 Nov. 97 (MEDSTAT)

Eurostat: Working Group on Cooperation with developing countries (1 or 2 a year)

Eurostat: Specialised Task Forces and Seminars

FAO: Meeting of the Working Party on Fishery Statistics and Economics

**Rapporteur:** ECE

**Activities and means from mid-May 1998 to June 2000:**

**Activities of ECE:**

- To transfer useful knowledge and experience acquired in the programme of work of the Conference relevant to developing countries (e.g. in fields such as population and housing censuses and environment statistics), through reports prepared for submission to the Statistical Commission and other means; to assist Eurostat in a supportive role in activities it carries out in its MEDSTAT project, and particularly in the priority area of international migration statistics (see Activities of Eurostat below).

**Secretariat resources:** Minimal

**Activities of OECD:**

a) Technical cooperation: (i) with China in various areas of economic statistics; (ii) with India in national accounts and price statistics.

b) Joint OECD/ESCAP meeting in the area of national accounts in 1998. (Other OECD activities outside the ECE region are described in programme activities 3, 4 and 5.)

**Activities of Eurostat:** (Theme 21 - Technical co-operation with third countries):

The co-operation priorities remain those defined last year: geographically: the ACP and Mediterranean countries as first priority, the MERCOSUR and China as second priority, the other regions as third priority;

institutionally: regional organisations (such as UEMOA) take priority over countries; sectorally: external trade, consumer price indices, informal sectors, national accounts (resources-uses balance, input-output tables), food safety, training.

Henceforth the actions will preferentially form part of a framework for the overall, balanced and sustainable institutional reinforcement of the statistical systems concerned. As much work as possible will be delegated to the EU National Statistical Institutes interested in this co-operation.

The MEDSTAT programme is part of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and comprises co-operation between the EU and the following countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, former occupied territories under Palestine jurisdiction, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Malta and Cyprus. The priority areas are: training of statisticians, environment, tourism, external trade, migration, new technologies and transport.

#### **Activities of other organizations:**

##### **The ILO:**

- a) Activities of the ILO's multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) (in Abidjan, Addis Ababa and Bangkok): (i) technical advice in the field of labour statistics; (ii) advise on the preparation and up-dating of ILO-country objectives, strategies and programmes and related research and analysis, and (iii) technical advice on the design, implementation and evaluation of projects.
- b) Short-term advisory services by the ILO's staff to regions, including that of the ECE, and for areas of expertise not covered by the MDTs' staff.
- c) Long-term assistance in the form of projects with external financing, mainly for establishing appropriate infrastructure and for training of national staff.

**The FAO:** (i) Collation and dissemination of fishery statistics for the Mediterranean and Black Seas (on behalf of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean); (ii) Meeting of the Working Party on Fishery Statistics and Economics to discuss improved Mediterranean fishery statistics.

**International Monetary Fund (IMF):** Technical assistance to member countries in the area of government finance, balance of payments, money and banking statistics, merchandise trade, price statistics, and national accounts. **Forms of assistance:** (i) two to three week on-site missions; (ii) services of resident IMF statistical advisors (funding through IMF's own resources, UNDP and the Administered Account for Selected Fund Activities -- Japan); (iii) seminary workshops, and training at the IMF Institute and the Joint Vienna Institute.

**ANNEX**  
**Priority Menu of the CES for 1998/99 and 1999/2000**  
**in programme activity 1 (Organization and operation of Statistical Services)**

**a) Mid-May 1998 - June 1999**

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS PRIORITY MENU FOR 1998/1999			
Programme element	Substantive action required of the ECE secretariat	Major coordination required	Output for the plenary session <b>1999</b>
1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes</li> <li>- Various intersecretariat working groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, Specialized Agencies, etc.</li> <li>- various organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft Integrated presentation</li> </ul>
1.2 Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of CES plenary session</li> <li>- Organization of substantive discussion</li> <li>- Organization of Bureau meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All international agencies active in the region</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CES Annual Report</li> <li>- Discussion papers</li> <li>- Bureau's reports; minutes of meetings</li> </ul>
1.3 Transition countries in the ECE region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taking full account of the needs of countries in transition in the CES work programme, provision of guidance and advice to transition countries by the Regional Adviser</li> <li>- Participate in inter-agency coordination activities</li> <li>- To manage, as the executing agency, the UNDP and UNFPA regional projects for the development of social and demographic statistics in transition countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, ILO, etc.</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, IWG.COORD, CIS</li> <li>- UNDP, Eurostat, UNSD, CIS-STAT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress report, when required</li> <li>- Progress reports, when required</li> <li>- Progress report, when required</li> </ul>
1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including in the Mediterranean region)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation and provision of relevant CES documents to the Statistical Commission, UNSD and the Regional Commissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNSD, Regional Commissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress reports, when required</li> </ul>

**b) July 1999 - June 2000**

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS PRIORITY MENU FOR 1999/2000			
Programme element	Substantive action required of the ECE secretariat	Major coordination required	Output for the plenary session <b>2000</b>
1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes</li> <li>- Participation in various intersecretariat working group meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, Specialized Agencies, etc.</li> <li>- Various organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft Integrated presentation</li> </ul>
1.2 Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of CES plenary session</li> <li>- Organization of substantive discussion</li> <li>- Organization of Bureau meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All international agencies active in the region</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CES Annual Report</li> <li>- Discussion papers</li> <li>- Bureau's reports; minutes of meetings</li> </ul>
1.3 Transition countries in the ECE region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taking full account of the needs of countries in transition in the CES work programme, provision of guidance and advice to transition countries by the Regional Adviser</li> <li>- Participate in inter-agency coordination activities</li> <li>- To manage, as the executing agency, the UNDP and UNFPA regional projects for the development of social and demographic statistics in transition countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, ILO, etc.</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, IWG.COORD, CIS</li> <li>- UNDP, Eurostat, UNSD, CIS-STAT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress report, when required</li> <li>- Progress reports, when required</li> <li>- Progress report, when required</li> </ul>
1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including in the Mediterranean region)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation and provision of relevant CES documents to the Statistical Commission, UNSD and the Regional Commissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNSD, Regional Commissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress reports, when required</li> </ul>

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