EECCA Conference:
Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics

6-7 October 2016

National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus (Belstat)
12 Partizansky Avenue, Minsk, Belarus

Co-organized by:

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus (Belstat)

With the support of:

Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat)

European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

Moscow Higher School of Economics

The Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) Conference is part of a series of regional conferences on a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global, regional and national development policies and initiatives. It builds on the outcome of the High-Level Global Conference organized by UNSD and Eurostat in January 2015 in New York and the recognition by the 47th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission[1] of the emerging demands for high-quality statistics and the need for modernization of national, regional, sub-regional and international statistical systems. The Conference aims at taking stock of various international, regional and national initiatives that have been undertaken or planned for integrating and modernizing statistical systems, and shaping the global initiative for a Transformative Agenda to the EECCA context.

The Conference will cover the five thematic areas of the Transformative Agenda and be organized in three substantive sessions and one breakout session. The target groups for this Conference are Chief Statisticians and senior managers of national statistical offices/committees and of international and regional organizations, multilateral and bilateral partners and other stakeholders. It is expected EECCA countries to steer this event for which substantial time will be assigned to group discussions and plenary interventions.

The Conference for a Transformative Agenda will be held back-to-back with the Eurostat High-level Seminar for EECCA countries on Modernising Official Statistics (EECCA HLS, 3-5 October 2016, Minsk).

For more information, documents and material visit:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops/2016/EECCA/lod.asp.

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[1] http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-4-Transformative-agenda-for-official-statistics-E.pdf
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-4-Transformative-agenda-for-official-statistics-R.pdf

Draft Agenda

Thursday, 6 October 2016

Registration (09:00 – 09:30)

Welcome and opening (09:30 – 10:30)

- *Ms. Inna Medvedeva, National Statistical Committee, Belarus* (10')
- *Ms. Ekaterina Paniklova, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Belarus* (15')
- *Ms. Zeynep Orhun, UNESCAP* (15')
- *Mr. Gabriel Gamez, UNSD* (20')
  including outline of the Transformative Agenda

Tea/coffee break (10:30 – 11:00)

Session 1: Measuring and communicating the value of statistics in support of the modernisation and transformation of official statistics
11:00-12:30

Chair: *Mr. Vadym Pishcheiko, State Statistics Service, Ukraine*

Presentations:

- *Ms. Ariunzaya Ayush, National Bureau of Statistics, Mongolia* (15')
- *Mr. Alexey Ponomarenko, Moscow Higher School of Economics, Russia* (15')
- *Mr. Tengiz Tsekvava, National Statistics Office, Georgia* (15')
- *Mr. Stepan Mnatsakanyan, National Statistical Service, Armenia* (15')

Questions and Answers (30')

Lunch break (12:30-14:00)

Session 2: Mainstreaming technological development in data collection, processing and dissemination: good practices and challenges
14:00-15:30

Chair: *Mr. Vladimir Sokolin, CIS-Stat*

Presentations:

- *Ms. Irina Kangro, National Statistical Committee, Belarus* (15')
- *Mr. Yusif Yusifov, State Statistical Committee, Azerbaijan* (15')
- *Ms. Stela Derivolcov, National Bureau of Statistics, Moldova* (15')
- *Ms. Gulnora Hasanzoda, Agency on Statistics, Tajikistan* (15')

Questions and Answers (30')

Tea/coffee break (15:30-16:00)

Session 3: **Developing a collective vision for advancing the transformation of statistics at global, regional and national level**
16:00-17:30

Chair: *Mr. Igor Ulianov, Federal State Statistics Service, Russia*

Presentations:

- *Mr. Kairat Orunkhanov, Committee on Statistics, Kazakhstan* (15')

- *Ms. Claudia Junker, Eurostat* (15')

- *Ms. Zeynep Orhun, UNESCAP* (15')

- *Mr. Dzhanbulat Baizhumanov, Eurasian Economic Commission* (15')

Questions and Answers (30')

Friday, 7 October 2016

Session 4a: **09:15-10:45**	**Breakout Session**

Group 1	Measuring and communicating the value of statistics in support of the modernisation and transformation of official statistics
Group 2	Mainstreaming technological development in data collection, processing and dissemination: good practices and challenges
Group 3	Developing a collective vision for advancing the transformation of statistics at global, regional and national level

Tea/coffee break (10:45-11:15)

Session 4b: **11:15-12:30**	**Report in Plenary**

Moderator: *Mr. Volker Täube, EFTA*

Lunch break (12:30-14:00)

Conclusions and the way forward (14:00 – 15:30)

Moderator: *Mr. Priit Potisepp, Estonia*

Panellists:

- *Ms. Inna Medvedeva, National Statistical Committee, Belarus*
- *Mr. Stepan Mnatsakanyan, National Statistical Service, Armenia*
- *Mr. Kairat Orunkhanov, Committee on Statistics, Kazakhstan*
- *Mr. Gabriel Gamez, UNSD*
- *Ms. Zeynep Orhun, UNESCAP*
- *Mr. Alexey Ponomarenko, Moscow Higher School of Economics, Russia*

Closing and farewell (15:30 – 16:00)

Refreshment (16:00)

Guidelines for the Breakout Session

The Conference will cover the five thematic areas of the Transformative Agenda and be organized in three substantive sessions (sessions 1-3) and one breakout session (session 4).

- For each plenary session, three contributors will make a short presentation (15 minutes, maximum 10 slides). These presentations are focusing on the major challenges, issues, opportunities, priorities and identified good practices and serve as input for following discussions in three parallel groups during the breakout session.

- For the breakout session, groups will have 1 hour 30 minutes to discuss a specific set of questions prepared in advance. Each group will nominate a rapporteur; preferably from a country that does not have a specific role otherwise.

- The groups should focus on the main challenges and the related actions, which are relevant to the transformation of the system of official statistics at the national, regional and global levels.

- The rapporteur of each group will have 10-15 minutes to present back in plenary the outcome and conclusions of the discussions in the breakout session, followed by 30 minutes of general discussions. Presentations by the rapporteurs and the plenary discussion will be moderated by the facilitator.

- Participants from bilateral and multilateral partner organisations and other stakeholders may decide in which group they wish to participate.

Groups for the Breakout Session (provisional)		
Group 1 **Measuring and communicating the value of statistics in support of the modernisation and transformation of official statistics**	**Group 2** **Mainstreaming technological development in data collection, processing and dissemination: good practices and challenges**	**Group 3** **Developing a collective vision for advancing the transformation of statistics at global, regional and national level**
Armenia (1)	Armenia (2)	Azerbaijan (2)
Belarus (1)	Azerbaijan (1)	Belarus (3)
Georgia (1)	Belarus (2)	Estonia
Kazakhstan (1)	Kyrgyzstan (2)	Georgia (2)
Kyrgyzstan (1)	Moldova (2)	Kazakhstan (2)
Moldova (1)	Mongolia (2)	Kyrgyzstan (3)
Mongolia (1)	Ukraine (2)	Russia (ROSSTAT)
Russia (HSE)	Tajikistan (1)	Tajikistan (2)
Ukraine (1)	Uzbekistan	Ukraine (3)

Questions for the breakout session

Group 1	Measuring and communicating the value of statistics in support of the modernisation and transformation of official statistics

1. What are the characteristics of a successful and modern communication strategy that could convey statistical information to all users, decision makers and stakeholders in a timely and efficient way ensuring the correct and easy interpretation of the disseminated data?

2. To what extent the national statistical systems are exploiting and promoting the comparative advantages of official statistics? Which actions should be undertaken first and foremost to harness these advantages?

3. What concrete measures need to be implemented in the short and medium term that could efficiently communicate the value of official statistics to the government and other stakeholders in order to generate support?

4. What are the characteristics of a highly qualified, efficient work force to support the modernization of the statistical system? What should be done to motivate the employees to embrace institutional, organizational and technological changes that are necessary for the modernization of official statistics?

Group 2	Mainstreaming technological development in data collection, processing and dissemination: good practices and challenges

1. How does the access to the internet, mobile devices and cloud technology motivate investing in new online national data repository and innovative dissemination technologies such as social media or mobile applications? What is the experience of the EECCA countries?

2. How could the transfer and sharing of innovative technologies and technical skills for the production of official statistics, including data collection and dissemination, be promoted and implemented at the sub-regional, regional and global level?

3. What kind of coordination/cooperation mechanism would be needed to foster development of standard IT architecture and technologies across the EECCA countries?

4. How could the data communities at regional, sub-regional and country level be mobilised to secure access to administrative and other secondary data sources for the production of official statistics and ultimately to promote the open data initiative?

Group 3	Developing a collective vision for advancing the transformation of statistics at global, regional and national level

1. What are the main drivers of the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems? Are there specific regional and national factors and circumstances in the EECCA countries that require modernizing official statistics? What are the main challenges, opportunities and possible actions?

2. How can National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (e.g. NSDS) and other national and regional strategic development plans address and sustain the coordination, transformation and modernisation of official statistics?

3. What partnership arrangements could be developed between statistical institutions at global, regional and national level to enable the review and assessment of institutional, organisational and financial frameworks; data assets and gaps; and production processes with the objective to support the transformation of official statistics in the EECCA countries?

4. What forms of training and technical capacity building are most relevant and could work best at the different levels of maturity of the statistical system? How could e-learning and other technology driven training programmes be incorporated?