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English - Or. English

COUNCIL

Council

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL REVISING THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS AND RENAMING IT THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS AND STATISTICAL POLICY

(Note by the Secretary-General)

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Background

1. The Committee on Statistics (CSTAT) was established on 12 February 2004. The current CSTAT mandate, which expires on 31 December 2013, is set out in [C\(2008\)126/REV1](#).

2. Since its creation in 2004, the CSTAT's mandate has been to oversee the broad range of statistics and statistical policy issues relevant to the Organisation, including a) to be responsible to Council for the statistical policy of the OECD, b) to ensure that OECD statistics are produced according to high quality standards, c) to officially approve methodological recommendations elaborated on specific subjects, and d) to approve common standards for data and metadata exchange between the OECD and national data providers.

CSTAT mandate revision

3. In 2012, the CSTAT was subject to an In-Depth Evaluation (IDE). The IDE recommendations [[C\(2013\)18](#) and [C\(2013\)18/CORR1](#)] were approved by Council in April 2013 [[C/M\(2013\)8](#)]. The Council invited the CSTAT to take the appropriate measures for the implementation of the recommendations and to take into account the results of the IDE during the next review of its mandate. There were three main recommendations, the first of which concerned compliance with the OECD rules of procedure regarding meetings. This recommendation has already been implemented. The second recommendation advised CSTAT to revise its mandate to give it a stronger focus on examining strategic issues for statistics policy (an aspect which it would like to reflect in a revised name), including identifying new and emerging needs of policymakers and how to respond to them and anticipating and addressing data supply issues. Finally, the Committee was encouraged to build on its experience acquired from addressing cutting-edge topics and to actively raise its profile vis-à-vis other OECD bodies.

4. As a result of the Committee review, the mandate text was revised, with the main substantive changes being as follows:

- Adding an overarching objective, to foster the development of policy by Members and important Partners (non-Members) on the basis of reliable data and evidence-based analysis and to provide civil society with reliable, internationally-comparable statistical information [see paragraph 1];
- Reflecting Council's recommendation regarding the Committee's enhanced role in ensuring that statistics within the OECD are dealt with in a well-coordinated and horizontal manner, taking into account that all substantive committees and bodies that are launching a major statistical project are invited by Council to consult with the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy at the onset of such project [see paragraph 2 i)];
- Recognising the Committee's role in fostering the development of innovative conceptual work, policy-relevant measures and dissemination tools [see paragraph 2 ii)];
- Highlighting the Committee's engagement with Partners in OECD statistical activities, including on strategic issues for statistical policy in response to new and emerging policy needs [see paragraph 3 viii)].

5. The draft Resolution of the Council revising the mandate of the Committee on Statistics and renaming it the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (with the new acronym CSSP), set out in Annex I, was discussed by the Committee at its June 2013 session, and approved by the CSTAT by written procedure on 3 September 2013 for transmission to Council [[STD/CSTAT\(2013\)4/REV2](#)].

Evaluation of the substructure

6. The CSTAT has, in accordance with Rule 21 c) of the Rules of Procedure, undertaken an evaluation of the continuing relevance of its substructure. The result of this evaluation, which can be found in Annex II, is that each of its four sub-bodies, namely the Working Party on National Accounts (WPNA), the Working Party on Trade in Goods and Services Statistics (WPTGS), the Expert Group for International Collaboration on Microdata Access (EGICMA) and the Expert Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (EGSDMX), are considered to remain relevant and that their mandates should be extended. While the WPNA's mandate should be extended until 31 December 2018, for the same period as the Committee mandate itself, the mandates of the other above-mentioned three subsidiary bodies should only be extended for a two-year period, until 31 December 2015. This shorter extension period would allow a) for the WPTGS's mandate to be reviewed in the light of evolving policy discussions and b) for completion and subsequent evaluation of work foreseen under the mandates of the EGICMA) and c) for the international governance structure of the EGSDMX to be determined. Furthermore, it was agreed that the Working Party on Financial Statistics (WPFS), created in 1967 under the auspices of the Committee on Financial Markets (CMF) with the objective to improve the quality of OECD financial statistics, should be transformed into a joint Working Party under the supervision of both the CSSP and the CMF. This proposal was considered by the CMF at its April 2011 meeting [[DAF/CMF/M\(2011\)1](#)] and agreed by the CMF by written procedure on 22 September 2013 [[DAF/CMF\(2013\)22](#)]. The mandate of the Working Party on Financial Statistics will be extended to allow a review to take place when the mandate of the CMF is reviewed, before the end of 2014. The results of the CSTAT substructure evaluation were approved by the Committee by written procedure on 3 September 2013 [[STD/CSTAT\(2013\)4/REV2](#)].

Proposal for mandate renewal

7. It is proposed that the revised mandate, as set out in the draft Resolution in Annex I hereto, should remain in force for a period of five years, until 31 December 2018, unless the Council decides otherwise. The draft Resolution would supersede all previous provisions concerning the mandate of the Committee. The Committee would return to the Council to propose a revision to its mandate should there be any major developments that warrant such a change.

Proposed action

8. In the light of the preceding, the Secretary-General invites the Council to adopt the following draft conclusions:

THE COUNCIL

- a) noted document [C\(2013\)82](#);
- b) adopted the draft Resolution revising the mandate of the Committee on Statistics and renaming it the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP), as set out in Annex I to document [C\(2013\)82](#), which will enter into force on 1 January 2014.

ANNEX I

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL REVISING THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS AND RENAMING IT THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS AND STATISTICAL POLICY (CSSP)

THE COUNCIL

Having regard to the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation;

Having regard to the Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [[C\(2012\)100/FINAL](#)];

Having regard to document [C\(2003\)217](#) and its CORR1 on the Establishment of an OECD Committee on Statistics as last renewed by Council on 16 October 2008 [[C\(2008\)126/REV1](#) and [C/M\(2008\)18](#), Item 245];

Having regard to the recommendations of the In-depth Evaluation of the Committee on Statistics [[C\(2013\)18](#) and its CORR1 and [C/M\(2013\)8](#), Item 70];

Having regard to the proposed revision of the mandate of the Committee on Statistics and the proposal to rename it the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP) [[C\(2013\)82](#)];

DECIDES:

A. The Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (hereinafter “the Committee”), has the following mandate:

Objectives

1. The overarching objective of the Committee is to foster the development of policy by Members and important Partners (non-Members) on the basis of reliable data and evidence-based analysis and to provide civil society with reliable, internationally-comparable statistical information.

2. The Committee seeks to achieve this objective by overseeing the OECD’s statistical policy and the broad range of statistics relevant to the Organisation to ensure:

- i) statistics within the OECD are dealt with in a well-coordinated and horizontal manner, taking into account that all substantive committees and bodies that are launching a major statistical project are invited by Council to consult with the Committee on Statistical Policy at the onset of such project;

- ii) the development of innovative conceptual work, policy-relevant measures and dissemination tools.

3. In carrying out its responsibilities it shall:

- i) be responsible to Council for the statistical policy of the OECD, both within the Organisation and vis-à-vis the rest of the world;
- ii) play a consultative role with respect to major statistical projects of other OECD substantive committees in order to help them achieve their objectives in the most efficient way; in particular, identify, and respond to, new and emerging statistical needs of policymakers; and anticipate and address related data supply issues;
- iii) ensure that OECD statistics are produced according to high-quality standards;
- iv) officially review and approve methodological recommendations elaborated by other committees on specific statistical subjects, and promote their implementation;
- v) approve common standards for data and metadata exchange between the OECD and national data and other international data providers;
- vi) foster the development of innovative tools for data dissemination;
- vii) maintain relations with other international organisations, seeking to achieve co-ordinated and complementary work programmes in areas of shared interest and mutual benefit;
- viii) seek to involve important Partners in the activities of the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy and its subsidiary bodies, and in specific OECD statistical activities undertaken by the Organisation's various substantive committees and bodies in order to:
 - a) improve the availability, quality and international comparability of statistics produced by national sources in both OECD and Partner countries;
 - b) promote convergence in statistical standards used by the OECD and Partners;
 - c) engage with Partners on strategic issues for statistical policy in response to new and emerging policy needs;
- ix) take appropriate action on any other topics submitted by the OECD Chief Statistician that are relevant for conducting his/her tasks.

Duration

- B. The mandate shall remain in force until 31 December 2018.

ANNEX II

EVALUATION OF THE CSTAT'S SUBSIDIARY BODIES

In accordance with Rule 21 c) of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Statistics (CSTAT) has undertaken an evaluation of the continuing relevance of its subsidiary bodies, namely the Working Party on National Accounts (WPNA), the Working Party on Trade in Goods and Services Statistics (WPTGS), the Expert Group for International Collaboration on Microdata Access (EGICMA), and the Expert Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (EGSDMX). On the basis of the analysis summarised below, the CSTAT proposes to renew the Mandates of the WPNA, the WPTGS, the EGICMA and the EGSDMX, all of which expire on 31 December 2013. Furthermore, the CSTAT recommends that the Working Party on Financial Statistics, created in 1967 under the auspices of the Committee on Financial Markets (CMF), should be transformed into a joint Working Party under the supervision of both the CSTAT and the CMF.

Working Party on National Accounts

1. The WPNA was officially created in October 2005 with the mandate to undertake work to improve the quality of national accounts data in accordance with priorities established by CSTAT. The WPNA has followed the main objectives set out in its mandate. The main achievements over the last years were reported on at CSTAT's meeting in June 2012 and include:

- Active advancement of the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts;
- Strong contribution to the G20 Data Gaps Initiative (DGI);
- Contribution to the OECD Better Life Initiative, integrating the household perspective in the measurement of well-being;
- Completion of other research projects, for example measurement of the non-observed economy, measurement of land and measurement of intangible assets;
- Enhanced co-operation with international organizations and other partners on the collection and treatment of data, in particular in the development of Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX).

2. Given the above, the Committee agreed that the WPNA is performing well and that there is a strong rationale for its continued existence as a means to fulfill the Committee's mandate. CSTAT members agreed that the mandate of the WPNA should be extended until 31 December 2018.

Working Party on Trade in Goods and Services Statistics

3. The WPTGS was created in June 2007 following a proposal to transform the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Expert Group and the OECD International Trade-in-Services Statistics Expert Group into a level two subsidiary body of the Committee. The Committee agreed that the WPTGS has accomplished important work to improve the quality of international trade statistics and carry out related analysis in accordance with priorities established by the Committee. Main achievements in recent years include:

- Active advancement of the implementation of the Balance of Payment Manual (BPM6);
- On-going development of the Compilation Guide for the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010;
- On-going emphasis on improving the quality (and coherence) of bilateral trade in services statistics at the detailed product level;
- On-going development of database on Unit Value Indices for Merchandise Trade;
- Advancement of work on Trade by Enterprise Characteristics, expanding country coverage and industries (to include services);
- Feasibility studies (case studies and a workshop) to link TEC data to underlying business statistics;
- Forum for discussing the development of, and improvements in, the statistics that feed into the OECD-WTO Trade in Value Added database;
- Enhanced co-operation with international organisations and other partners on the collection and treatment of data, in particular in the development of SDMX. In addition the collection of merchandise trade statistics has been streamlined in cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

4. However, given the rising importance of trade issues at the forefront of policy discussions that may have an impact on the Committee on Statistics' own mandate in the next years (*e.g.* trade in value-added, trade in jobs, trade in income and international competitiveness), it is clear that the mandate of the Working Party will need to be reviewed by CSTAT within the next biennium. CSTAT members thus agreed that the mandate of the WPTGS be renewed without revision for further two years (until 31 December 2015) to allow time for the review and the implementation of possible resulting organisational changes.

Working Party on Financial Statistics

5. The WPFS was created in 1967 under the auspices of the Committee on Financial Markets (CMF) with the objective to improve the quality of OECD financial statistics. For historical reasons, while the WPFS has been operating under the oversight of the CMF, whose Secretariat is located in the Directorate for Financial Affairs (DAF), it is resourced under the CSTAT work programme and supported by the Secretariat of the Statistics Directorate (STD). While this arrangement was seen as having some advantages in creating a direct link with users of financial statistics, it also was seen as creating challenges in priority setting and resource allocation. To accommodate the interests of both Committees, CSTAT agreed at its 2010 meeting to consider that the WPFS be transformed into a joint Working Party under the supervision of the two Committees if the CMF also agreed.

6. Work on financial statistics remains a high priority for Members, in particular in the context of the financial crisis, and they have expressed strong support for the Secretariat's work in this area including an emphasis on more timely data collection for sector and household statistics along with an increased focus on methodological work. They thus welcomed the proposal to oversee work on financial statistics, and of the WPFS, jointly with the CMF. Concerning the WPFS mandate, the Committee agreed that it remained valid and agreed to respect the recommendation of the CMF regarding its duration. The CMF had discussed the proposal for joint CMF/CSTAT oversight at its 2010 and 2011 meetings (see

[DAF/CMF/M\(2010\)3](#) and [DAF/CMF/M\(2011\)1](#)), and expressed its approval by written procedure on 22 September 2013. The mandate of the Working Party on Financial Statistics will be extended to allow a review to take place when the mandate of the CMF is reviewed, before the end of 2014.

Expert Group for International Collaboration on Microdata Access

7. The Expert Group was formally created in June 2012 [[CE\(2012\)1](#)] to facilitate national statistical offices working together on practical steps to advance cross-border access to, and analysis of, microdata by policy analysts and researchers while taking into account the legislative requirements of countries. Members noted that the Group's work was progressing well and that a final report was under preparation for December 2013. The Committee agreed to extend the mandate of the Expert Group for a further two years in order to give the Committee time to evaluate the Group's results and determine possible follow-up work. CSTAT thus agreed that the Expert Group's mandate should be extended until 31 December 2015.

Expert Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange

8. The Expert Group was created in January 2004 and became an official body of CSTAT following the Committee's June 2005 meeting. The Group was set up to form a network of involved ICT experts to discuss strategic issues related to the development and practical implementation of new procedures for statistical data exchange and sharing between the OECD, its Member countries and other international organisations. The Expert Group was established with the goal to identify ways of improving OECD's data collection and data sharing activities with Member countries, and to promote the development and use of SDMX standards and guidelines for this purpose. Over time, the Group's mandate has, however, evolved to focus solely on technical SDMX implementation issues and meetings are organised on an irregular and *ad hoc* basis. The SDMX Secretariat consists of representatives from Eurostat, the ECB, the BIS, the IMF, the World Bank, the UN and the OECD (but no Member countries). CSTAT members expressed the view that the mandate of the Expert Group should be extended for further two years while the international governance structure of SDMX was being determined. They thus agreed that the Expert Group's mandate should be extended until 31 December 2015.