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**International work
on Sustainable Development Indicators**

First meeting of the
Working Group on Sustainable Development Indicators
Meeting of 5-6 April 2006
Luxembourg, BECH Building Quetelet Room

INTERNATIONAL WORK ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

The aim of this document is to inform participants of a few recent initiatives which have taken place at world level.

1. UN EXPERT GROUP ON INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) approved in 1995 the programme of work on Indicators on Sustainable Development. The work programme culminated in a set of 58 indicators, based on a Theme/Sub-theme framework. The set was adopted by the CSD in 2001 after extensive consultations and national testing programmes. The World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and subsequent sessions of the CSD encouraged further work on indicators for sustainable development by countries in line with national conditions and priorities and invited the international community to support efforts of developing countries in this regard.

The United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (DESA-DSD) is currently reviewing the set of CSD Indicators of Sustainable Development (CSD-ISD). It organised a first meeting of a so-called 'Expert group meeting on Indicators of Sustainable Development' on 13-15 December 2005 in New-York. The aim of this meeting was twofold:

- To assess proposals to revise the CSD-ISD made by international agencies and organizations; and
- to assess the coherence between CSD-ISD and the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) indicators.

More information on this meeting can be found at: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/egmIndicators/egm.htm>. There should be a 2nd meeting of this group at the autumn 2006.

2. UNECE-OECD-EUROSTAT WORKING GROUP ON STATISTICS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

One of the seminars of the 2005 Conference of European Statisticians (CES) organised by the UN-ECE was dedicated to the measurement of Sustainable Development. Documents disseminated at this Conference can be found at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2005.06.ces.htm> and <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2005.06.seminars.htm>. Following this Conference, the Bureau of the CES approved in October 2005 the terms of reference for a Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development. The 1st meeting of this working group will take place in Luxembourg on 3-4 April 2006. Documents can be found on UNECE website at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.04.sust-dev.htm> or on CIRCA at <http://forum.europa.eu.int/Members/irc/dsis/susdevind/library?l=/eceeurostatoced&vm=detailed&sb=Title>.

The timetable is currently the following:

- 3-4 April 2006: Meeting of the Working Group in Luxembourg;
- 26-27 October: Meeting of the Working Group in Oslo, with the participation of policy stakeholders;
- February 2007: interim report to the CES Bureau;
- Spring 2007: Meeting of the Working Group in Budapest ?
- February 2008: presentation of final report to the CES Bureau;
- June 2008: presentation of final report to the Conference of European Statisticians.

The Working Group is expected to adopt a book on recommendations on SDIs, following strictly the terms of its mandate.

3. EUROSTAT WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

Following the end of the mandate of the Task Force on Sustainable Development Indicators, Eurostat decided to set a permanent Working Group (document SDI/WG/2) which will meet approximately once a year.