



International Labour Office
Bureau international du Travail
Oficina Internacional del Trabajo

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Réf.:
Votre réf.:

11 October 2017

Meeting of the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices 7-9 May 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Bajwa,

I am pleased to inform you that the International Labour Office (ILO), in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is organising the biennial meeting of the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices (CPIs) that will take place in the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on 7 – 9 May 2018.

The meeting is organized following the programme of work adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and the recommendations of the previous CPI Expert Group meeting in May 2016. The Expert Group meeting is prepared in consultation with the UNECE Steering Group on CPI. The meeting serves as a forum for exchanging experiences in CPI compilation among national statistical offices and promoting the development and implementation of good practices and international recommendations in the area of CPI.

The 2018 Expert Group meeting will discuss the following substantive topics:

- Services in the CPI
- New data sources for compiling the CPI
- Understanding and meeting different user needs
- Methodological issues in CPI compilation

The topics will be discussed both in plenary sessions and in poster sessions. Contributions are therefore invited in the form of either papers or posters. Detailed information about the topics and the submission of papers and presentations are provided in the attached call for papers and poster presentations.

In addition to the substantive topics that will be discussed, the following sessions will be organised:

Session on the update of the 2004 CPI Manual. Since 2015 a Technical Expert Group under the leadership of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been working to update the 2004 CPI Manual. The update of the manual has taken place under the auspices of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics. The draft chapters of the updated manual will be presented.

Session on the update of COICOP. The current 1999 version of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) has been under review by a Technical Expert Group established by the UN Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications. The revised version of COICOP is planned to be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission for endorsement in March 2018. The revised COICOP will be presented for information of the participants.

The first Expert Group meeting on CPI took place in 1978. To mark the 40th anniversary of the group a Panel Discussion will be organised to look forward to what will be the main challenges of national statistical offices in compiling and disseminating the CPI in the next decade.

A special session for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South East Europe will be organised in the afternoon on 9 May. The session will discuss methodological and practical challenges that are particular for the region, and the development of a harmonised CPI for member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian will be provided during the three days of the meeting.

If your office would like to submit a paper or a presentation to the meeting, please send a short abstract via email to economic.stats@unece.org by **15 December 2017**. Completed papers of accepted abstracts should be received by **20 March 2018**. Papers that would need to be translated into any of the UNECE working languages (English, Russian and French) should be received by 20 February 2018.

The detailed agenda and other documents of the meeting, including papers and presentations, will be made available on the meeting's website <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46772>. Further practical information on accommodation and local transport in Geneva, visa requirements, and how to enter the meeting venue can be found in the Information note that will be made available on the website.

Participants should register by **7 April 2018** by completing the on-line registration form available from the meeting's website.

Should you have questions concerning the meeting, please contact Evita Sisene (email: evita.sisene@unece.org, tel.: +41 22 917 4488), Carsten Boldsen (email: carsten.boldsen@unece.org, tel.: +41 22 917 3370) or Valentina Stoevska (email: stoevska@ilo.org, tel.: +41 22 799 6422).

Yours sincerely,



Rafael Diez de Medina
Director
Department of Statistics

Encl.: Call for papers and poster presentations