

Concept Note

Methodology to delineate cities, urban and rural areas for international and regional statistical comparison purposes – progress and way forward

Meeting organised by Eurostat

2 March 2020 – 1:30 to 2:45 pm

**Venue: The European Union Delegation to the UN
666 Third Avenue, 31st Floor, between 42nd and 43rd Streets**

**Registration: Teodora.BRANDMUELLER@ec.europa.eu
by Friday 28 February 2020**

Summary of event:

The 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development includes several indicators that should be collected for cities or for rural and urban areas, but no harmonised method to delineate these areas has been agreed yet. Such a method however would be helpful to allow monitoring and comparing the indicators. That is why six international organisations - the European Union, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Office (ILO), the OECD, UN-Habitat and the World Bank - have joined forces to develop a method, which will be presented to the UN Statistical Commission for endorsement (see E/CN.3/2020/14). This session will describe how to apply this new method, called the Degree of Urbanisation. One or two national statistical offices will share their experience implementing this method. UN-Habitat will present the conclusions of their regional workshops which discussed this method with 86 countries. Finally, several SDG indicators will be presented by Degree of Urbanisation for countries from across the globe. The session will conclude with an open discussion on the way forward.

Speakers:

- Chair and opening statement: Eurostat, European Commission - Christine Wirtz: Presenting the context and the method.
- Speakers 1 – 2 : UN-Habitat - Head of the Urban Observatory, Robert Ndugwa: Conclusions from the 7 regional Workshops on the Degree of Urbanisation and Lewis Dijkstra on behalf of the coalition of international organisations: Can we measure SDGs using the Degree of Urbanisation: Examples from across the globe
- Speaker 3: Gemma Van Halderen Director of Statistics at ESCAP