

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2014/2015 Bureau
Geneva, 21-22 October 2014

Item 5 (f) of the Provisional
Agenda

FURTHER WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED STATISTICS

Prepared by the Secretariat

*The paper presents a proposal for further work on climate change-related statistics, based on the decision of the CES 2014 Plenary Session to establish a small Steering Group to provide direction to countries in implementing the CES Recommendations on climate change-related statistics and a Task Force to define a set of key climate change-related statistics. **The Bureau discussed and approved the terms of reference of the Steering Group and the Task Force (Add 1-2).***

I. BACKGROUND

1. A Task Force worked under the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in 2012-2013 to prepare *Recommendations on climate change-related statistics*. The aim was to support the development of these statistics and enhance the role of official statistics in the compilation of greenhouse gas inventories. The work was carried out in close coordination with the UN Statistics Division and regular progress reports were submitted to the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA).
2. In the course of its work, the Task Force built up good cooperation with key organisations active in measuring climate change, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) etc. The views of these organisations are reflected in the Recommendations.
3. The Secretariat carried out an electronic consultation of the Recommendations in February-March 2014. A total of 41 countries and international organisations replied and supported the endorsement of the Recommendations and planned to start implementing them. Countries noted that further work should focus on improving consistency of official statistics and greenhouse gas inventories and developing a core set of climate change-related statistics. Countries asked for guidance in implementing the Recommendations, and for their translation into Russian. All countries supported organising expert meetings to bring together statistical offices and other producers of climate change-related information.
4. In April 2014, the CES plenary session endorsed the *CES Recommendations on climate change-related statistics*, and the proposals for further work. The Conference supported the development of an internationally comparable set of key climate change-related statistics building on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). The Conference agreed that member countries will need guidance in implementing the Recommendations, and that specific task forces may be needed to carry out methodological work. The Conference noted that expert meetings involving statistical offices, greenhouse gas inventory producers and other organizations would be highly useful.

II. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CES PLENARY SESSION ON FUTURE WORK

5. In April 2014, the Conference endorsed the proposals for follow-up work, identified by the Task Force and supported by CES members during the electronic consultation, namely:

(a) Establish a small steering group to provide direction to countries in implementing the *CES Recommendations on climate change-related statistics*;

(b) Organise expert meetings for producers and users of climate change-related statistics with the participation of key organizations involved in the measurement of climate change and related phenomena. The purpose would be to share ideas and experience, collaborate, discuss concepts and measurement issues, and identify areas where practical methodological guidance would be needed;

(c) Define a set of key climate change-related statistics;

(d) Explore the use of SEEA for climate change-related statistics;

(e) Promote further harmonization and coherence between the greenhouse gas inventory data and official statistics.

6. The Conference asked the Bureau to discuss the next steps in October 2014.

III. PROPOSAL FOR THE BUREAU

7. The Bureau discussed and approved the terms of reference of a small Steering Group on climate change-related statistics and a dedicated Task Force to develop a set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators using SEEA.

8. The small Steering Group, composed of a few countries and main partners, will provide direction to the work towards implementing the *CES Recommendations*, organise expert meetings, advance further work and promote coherence between greenhouse gas inventories and official statistics **(to address CES decisions a, b and e above)**.

9. The dedicated Task Force will define an internationally comparable set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators to be derived from SEEA and other sources **(to address CES decisions c and d)**.

10. International organisations, such as FAO, IPCC, UNFCCC, the UNECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and WMO, have expressed their interest in participating in the expert meetings. Australia, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Kyrgyzstan, Poland and United Kingdom expressed support for the further work and indicated their interest to take part in the expert meetings. Some countries and international organisations volunteered to be members of the Steering Group and/or the Task Force as indicated in the addenda.

11. The addenda to this document provide the terms of reference of the:

- Steering Group on climate change-related statistics and (Addendum 1);
- Task Force on a set of key climate change-related statistics (Addendum 2).