

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

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

Item 5 (f) of the Provisional
Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF A TASK FORCE ON
A SET OF KEY CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED STATISTICS USING SEEA**

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 Task Force on a set of key climate change-related statistics. **The Bureau discussed and approved the terms of reference of the Task Force.***

I. BACKGROUND

1. In April 2014, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) endorsed the *CES Recommendations on climate change-related statistics* targeted to national statistical systems. The Conference underlined as a priority the need to develop an internationally comparable set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators. The set should provide flexibility for taking into account national circumstances and priorities.
2. The Conference also emphasized that the new indicators should be derived from the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework (SEEA-CF) to the extent possible so as to make optimal use of existing data systems. SEEA-CF provides a useful framework for deriving coherent indicators in line with internationally agreed concepts, definitions and classifications. While SEEA-CF is not intended explicitly for climate change analysis, it includes a number of relevant components.
3. Some other statistical frameworks also provide relevant data for a set of climate change-related indicators, such as the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES). The *CES Recommendations on climate change-related statistics* provide an analysis of both SEEA-CF and FDES in terms of their ability to cover issues relevant to climate change, and list relevant variables that could be derived from these frameworks. To cover the key issues related to climate change, these frameworks need to be complemented with some additional data, for example on economic activity associated with adaptation to climate change, population, migration and health.
4. Statistics and indicators pertaining to climate change, on its causes and impacts as well as on the efforts to mitigate it and adapt to it, need to be improved to enable measuring, monitoring and reporting progress against Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the SDG 13: "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts".

II. MANDATE

5. The work of the Task Force is conducted within the framework of CES and its Bureau. The Task Force will be created for a period of two years, after which it will submit a final report. The Steering Group on climate change-related statistics will guide and oversee the work of the Task Force.

III. OBJECTIVE

6. The objective of the Task Force will be to define an internationally comparable set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators that can be derived from the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and other sources. The work should take into account the SDGs and relevant issues raised in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

7. Building on the work accomplished to date, the Task Force will undertake the following activities:

- (a) Take as a starting point the *CES Recommendations on climate change-related statistics*, work in line with the definition of climate change-related statistics and make use of the inventory of data needs and existing statistics described in the Recommendations;
- (b) Review other related indicator initiatives and take them into account;
- (c) Agree on issues to be covered by a set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators;
- (d) Explore which statistics or indicators could be derived from SEEA-CF and identify the necessary additional data existing in the statistical system or outside;
- (e) Define a key set of coherent and internationally comparable climate change-related statistics and indicators considering availability of data and feasibility of production;
- (f) Provide definitions and suggested data sources for each indicator in line with SEEA-CF, FDES and other international statistical standards that relate to the chosen set.

8. The output will be a key set of climate change-related statistics and indicators with definitions and data sources recommended for production by CES member countries.

V. TIMETABLE

9. The activities of the Task Force are planned for the period from end-2014 to end-2016, according to the following tentative timetable:

Nov-Dec 2014	Draft a work plan with activities, timing and division of work
Jan-Mar 2015	Explore statistics and indicators that could be derived by using SEEA-CF and other statistics
Apr-Jun 2015	Face-to-face meeting to agree on preliminary issues to be covered by the set of statistics and indicators, possibly back-to-back with a meeting on SEEA
Jul-Sep 2015	Select the key set of statistics and indicators considering availability of data and feasibility of production
Oct-Dec 2015	Consult the key set of statistics and indicators with the Steering Group on climate change-related statistics and/or the related expert meeting
Jan-Mar 2016	Prepare definitions for the selected key set of statistics and indicators in line with SEEA-CF, FDES and other statistical standards
Apr-Jun 2016	Define data sources for the set of statistics and indicators by exploring the use of SEEA-CF, FDES and other existing statistics
Jul-Sep 2016	Prepare a brief report with the key set of climate change-related statistics and indicators, data sources and definitions for consultation with the Steering Group
Oct 2016	Submit the report to the CES Bureau.
Nov-Dec 2016	Finalise the report and/or revise the set of statistics and indicators based on feedback received

VI. METHODS OF WORK

10. The Task Force will primarily work via email and telephone conferences. Face-to-face meetings may be organized, preferably on the occasion of events attended by a significant number of Task Force members. Participation to the meetings will be self-funded.

11. The Task Force will report to the Steering Group on climate change-related statistics and submit its findings for consultation with the expert meeting for producers and users of climate change-related statistics that involves national statistical offices, greenhouse gas inventory producers and key organizations active in the measurement of climate change and related phenomena.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

12. The following countries and international organisations have expressed interest in participating in the Task Force: Canada, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, Romania (greenhouse gas inventory authority), Russian Federation, Turkey and European Environment Agency, Eurostat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, OECD, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Statistics Division.

13. UNECE acts as Secretariat to the Task Force.

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