

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2017/2018 Bureau  
Yerevan (Armenia), 10-11 October 2017

Item III (c) of the Provisional  
Agenda

**UPDATED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A TASK FORCE ON  
A SET OF CORE CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED STATISTICS**

**Prepared by the Task Force**

*The paper presents a proposal for the updated Terms of Reference of the former Task Force on a set of Key Climate Change-related Indicators using the System of Environmental-Economic accounting. The Conference of European Statisticians, at its sixty-fifth plenary session (19-21 June 2017, Geneva) extended the mandate of the Task Force to refine the initial set of indicators based on the outcomes of the pilot testing that is currently ongoing.*

*The main objectives of the Task Force are to refine the initial set of indicators, to further develop and identify methodologies, to develop a set of operational and contextual indicators and to draft guidelines for the implementation of the indicator set.*

*The Bureau reviewed and approved the updated Terms of Reference for further work on the set of core climate change-related statistics and indicators.*

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. In June 2017, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) endorsed the *Initial Set of Key Climate Change-related Indicators using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting*. The Conference emphasized the need for further work to refine the initial indicator set, to develop common methodologies and improve the availability of data.
2. The Conference agreed that the initial set of core climate change-related indicators form the basis for pilot testing. In total, 17 countries and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) volunteered to participate in the pilot testing<sup>1</sup>.
3. The Conference extended the mandate of the Task Force to refine the initial set of core climate-change related indicators based on the outcomes of the pilot testing, and to develop methodologies, data sources and guidance for implementation.

---

<sup>1</sup> Armenia, Belarus, Colombia, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine and FAO

## **II. MANDATE**

4. 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**

5. The main objective of the Task Force will be to refine the initial set of core climate change-related indicators based on the outcomes of the pilot testing, and taking into consideration comments received during the electronic consultation with CES member States (carried out in February – March 2017).

6. Furthermore, the Task Force will develop a set of operational and contextual indicators to accompany the recommended set of core indicators.

7. As far as possible, the Task Force will identify methodologies for tier III indicators. This work will take into account developments related to the operationalization of indicators to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework), and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (Paris Agreement). Experiences of individual countries will also be considered if internationally agreed methodologies are not yet available.

8. The Task Force will develop guidelines for the implementation of the refined set of indicators.

9. The Task Force will also contribute to the development of a global set of climate change statistics and indicators.

## **IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS**

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

(a) Take as a starting point the *Initial Set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators using the System of Environmental-economic Accounting*, the results of the pilot testing of the set of indicators, and the comments received from the electronic consultation;

(b) Analyse the results of the pilot testing and comments received from the electronic consultation to identify data sources, needs for practical guidance, and needs for further refinement of the set of indicators and the proposed methodologies;

(c) Make the necessary refinements to the set of core indicators. This includes a review of the organisation of the indicators according to areas and sub-areas, and improvements of the methodological sheets;

(d) Identify newly available methodologies for tier III indicators (e.g. from the work on SDG indicators and Sendai Framework), and revise methodologies for tier I and tier II indicators if necessary;

(e) Propose a set of contextual and operational indicators accompanying the set of core indicators;

(f) Consult with different users and producers of the set of core indicators (e.g. via Expert Forum on Climate Change-related Statistics) and assess the usefulness of the refined set of core indicators;

(g) Develop guidelines for implementation of the set of core indicators, including suggestions for the use of operational and contextual indicators;

(h) Contribute, as far as possible, to the development of a global set of climate change statistics and indicators.

11. The outputs will be (i) a refined set of core climate change-related statistics and indicators, and (ii) implementation guidelines for CES member countries for producing the indicator set.

## V. TIMETABLE

12. The activities of the Task Force are planned for the period from November 2017 to February 2020, according to the following tentative timetable:

Nov-Dec 2017	Draft a work plan with activities, timing and division of work
Jan-Mar 2018	Analyse the results of the pilot testing (data sources, needs for further guidance, needs for refinements of the set of indicators)
Apr-Sep 2018	Refine the set of core indicators, taking into consideration the results of the pilot testing and comments received from the electronic consultation: Revise and complete metadata sheets of tier I and tier II indicators, review tier III indicators and identify methodologies, revise the organisation of the indicators according to areas and sub-areas
Oct-Dec 2018	Present interim results to the Expert Forum on Climate Change-related Statistics, and implement recommendations
Jan-Apr 2019	Develop a set of operational and contextual indicators
Apr – Sept 2019	Draft implementation guidelines and final report
Oct- Nov 2019	Present draft implementation guidelines to Expert Forum on Climate Change-related Statistics, and implement recommendations
Dec 2019	Finalise the report and/or revise the set of statistics and indicators based on feedback received
Jan-Feb 2020	Submit the report to the CES Bureau

## **VI. METHODS OF WORK**

13. 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.

14. The Task Force will report to the Steering Group on climate change-related statistics and submit its findings for consultation to 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**

15. Countries and international organisations who have already participated in the *Task Force on a Set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators using the System of Environmental-economic Accounting* will be invited to participate in this Task Force. Participation is also open for other countries and international organisations.

16. UNECE acts as Secretariat to the Task Force.

\* \* \* \* \*