

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 STEERING GROUP
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. **The Bureau discussed and approved the terms of reference of the Steering Group.***

I. BACKGROUND

1. The upcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for taking “urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”, and “promoting mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management”. To support member states in implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda, particularly the measuring, monitoring and reporting on SDGs, the United Nations places special emphasis on strengthening statistics and data, evidence-based policies and accountability.
2. UNECE recognized the need for robust, timely and comparable statistics on environmental indicators including on climate change, and for strengthening countries’ capacity in this area at its Commission Session in March 2011 (decision A/64). A Task Force on climate change-related statistics worked on preparing recommendations to statistical systems in 2012-2013.
3. In April 2014, the Conference endorsed the *CES Recommendations on climate change-related statistics* which are the first step towards improving the usefulness of existing official statistics for climate analyses and greenhouse gas inventories. The recommendations are targeted to national statistical systems to support development of climate change-related statistics, and enhance the role of official statistics in greenhouse gas inventories.
4. The Conference emphasized that countries will need guidance in implementing the *CES Recommendations*, and expressed support for establishing a small steering group to provide direction to the implementation of these Recommendations.
5. The Conference noted that expert meetings would be highly useful for sharing ideas and experience, collaboration, discussion of concepts and measurement issues, and identification of areas for development of practical guidance.

II. MANDATE

6. The work of the Steering Group is conducted within the framework of CES and its Bureau. The Steering Group will regularly report to the CES Bureau on the CES activities on climate change-related statistics, including on the outcome of expert meetings and task forces working under its guidance.

7. The Steering Group may identify new areas where methodological work could be undertaken and submit proposals to the CES Bureau for review and approval as the need arises.

III. OBJECTIVE

8. The objective of the Steering Group will be to provide direction to the work towards implementing the *CES Recommendations*, advancing the work on climate change-related statistics and promoting coherence between greenhouse gas inventories and official statistics.

9. The key tasks of the Steering Group will be to:

- Coordinate CES activities with key international organizations that are active in climate change-related statistics;
- Play a key role in organising and leading the work of expert meetings involving producers and users of climate change-related statistics;
- Oversee the activities of any CES task forces working on climate change-related statistics.

IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

10. Building on the work accomplished to date, the Steering Group will work on the following activities and outputs:

(a) Steer CES activities in climate change-related statistics. Organise and lead the work of the expert meetings and oversee any CES task forces on climate change-related statistics, including development of guidelines, collections of good practice and capacity building;

(b) Provide advice on methodological work in climate change-related statistics, including defining the key set of statistics and indicators;

(c) Identify areas of climate change-related statistics that require further methodological work or where practical guidance would need to be developed;

(d) Promote sharing of ideas and good practice as well as advance work in climate change-related statistics and improving coherence of greenhouse gas inventories and official statistics, for instance through the expert meetings;

(e) Collaborate closely with international organisations that are active in measuring climate change-related statistics, and discuss the roles and responsibilities of the statistical community, greenhouse gas inventory compilers and relevant international organisations;

(f) Follow up on countries' progress in implementing the *CES Recommendations* and developing climate change-related statistics.

V. TIMETABLE

11. In view of the scope of the planned activities described above, and considering the pioneering nature of work, the Steering Group will be created for an initial period from November 2014 to November 2018.

VI. METHODS OF WORK

12. The Steering Group will primarily work via email and telephone conferences. Informal meetings are organised on the occasion of events attended by a significant number of Steering Group members, such as the expert meetings for producers and users of climate change-related statistics or other relevant events.

13. The Steering Group consults with the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA), established by the UN Statistical Commission.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

14. The Steering Group is composed of a few countries and main partners. The following countries and international organisations have accepted the invitation to participate in the Steering Group: Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Directorate-General for Climate Action of the European Commission, European Environment Agency, Eurostat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

15. UNECE acts as Secretariat to the Steering Group.

* * * * *