



UNECE

Conference of European Statisticians

29 August 2016

Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics

5-7 October 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

CONCEPT NOTE

The Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room IX, on 5-7 October 2016. Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian will be provided.

Meeting documents will be available at the UNECE website:

www.unece.org/stats/documents/2016.10.climate.html

Introduction

The previous Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics was held in Geneva, on 2-3 September 2015. More than 80 participants representing 36 countries and 18 international organizations attended the meeting.

The next Expert Forum will be organized on 5-7 October 2016 to discuss how to respond to the data needs relating to climate change that arise from global agreements, such as the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting will share ideas and experience, discuss concepts and measurement issues and identify areas for development.

This work follows up on the *Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics* which more than 60 countries and international organisations endorsed in April 2014 at the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). Example roadmaps for implementing the Recommendations will be discussed.

The Expert Forum will be open for all countries and organizations producing or using climate change-related data. The Forum aims to provide a link between various producers and users of climate information. The meeting will also collect input to the CES work on developing a set of climate change-related indicators and defining the role of official statistics in measuring disasters and extreme events.

The Expert Forum will be organized by a UNECE Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics (SGCC), including Norway (Chair), Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Netherlands, Russian Federation and DG Climate Action of the European Commission, European Environment Agency (EEA), Eurostat, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Energy Agency (IEA), Midsummer Analytics and UNFCCC.

Sessions of the Expert Forum

The Expert Forum will include the following sessions:

First day

Setting the scene

- Seminar Chair: Nina Holmengen, Norwegian Environment Agency

This session will set the scene and introduce the topics of the Expert Forum.

1. Session: Outcomes of the COP21 and the Paris Agreement

- Chair: Sergey Kononov, UNFCCC

The 2015 Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC requires that all countries that are Parties to the Agreement report regularly information and data relating to climate change and action to address it. For example, in accordance with Article 4 of the Agreement each Party needs to prepare, communicate and maintain its successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the global response to climate change.¹ In accordance with Article 13 of the Agreement each Party will be required to regularly provide a national inventory report for greenhouse gas emissions and removals and information on progress in implementing NDCs, on impacts of climate change; on adaptation; and on financial, technological and capacity-building support provided or received.

These reporting requirements build up on the relevant provisions currently in place under the UNFCCC but enhance them significantly, aiming to support strengthened action to address climate change and its impacts. The session will discuss the evolving reporting requirements of the international climate change regime and their implications for national statistical systems. Countries will be invited to share their views on how they plan to fulfil these requirements, what new data are needed, and how to improve data and statistics required for greenhouse gas inventories and other reporting under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

2. Session: Strengthening energy statistics for climate change

- Chair: Roberta Quadrelli, International Energy Agency

The energy sector is the largest driver of global greenhouse gas emissions and a critical component of all climate policies. Accurate and complete statistics are therefore

¹ In accordance with Article 4 of the Agreement, “Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions” and “Each Party’s successive nationally determined contribution will represent a progression beyond the Party’s then current nationally determined contribution and reflect its highest possible ambition, reflecting its common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.”

essential as governments seek to cut greenhouse gas emissions, including through energy efficiency, while optimising energy use and providing energy security.

The collection and production of national energy data, from supply to final demand by sector, requires a structured information system, with input from a number of different players, such as ministries, statistical offices, environmental agencies, etc.

The session will discuss current and future use of energy statistics for climate change, and the related challenges, to explore issues including: Are there still gaps to track progress after the Paris Agreement? If so, what additional data are needed? How to ensure coherence between emissions inventories and official energy statistics? What kind of collaboration is needed between data producers, in countries and globally, to enhance training and capacity building?

Second day

3. Session: Set of climate change indicators and SDGs

- Chair: Angelica Tudini, National Institute of Statistics of Italy

In October 2014, a UNECE Task Force started to develop an internationally comparable set of key climate change-related indicators derived from the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and other sources. The set, expected to be final by December 2016, will be built around the scope of climate change-related statistics of the *CES Recommendations* to include: emissions, drivers, impacts, mitigation and adaptation. The work plans were discussed at the 2015 Expert Forum, and the Task Force will now present the initial set of indicators for discussion. The indicator set takes into account the SDG indicators, initially agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016.

The session will discuss the initial set of key climate change-related indicators, and their relation to existing data, statistical frameworks such as the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES). The session will also provide an opportunity to have a first discussion on how to measure the SDG indicators relating to climate change: Who should provide these indicators and are the necessary methodologies in place?

4. Session: Roadmap and progress towards better climate change-related statistics

- Chair: Rob Smith, Midsummer Analytics

UNECE published the *CES Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics* in December 2014 to support climate change analysis and reporting on greenhouse gas emissions under the UNFCCC. At the 2015 Expert Forum, countries asked for support for preparing national plans to develop climate change-related statistics. They asked the UNECE Steering Group to develop example roadmaps countries could use in developing

their own national plans. The example roadmaps should represent countries at different stages of developing climate change-related statistics. The Expert Forum also asked the UNECE Steering Group to collect information on progress made by countries.

This session will discuss countries' progress in developing climate change-related statistics, share latest experience and review the example roadmaps as tools to identify priorities and practical steps for improving climate change-related statistics.

Third day

5. Session: Measurement of disasters and extreme events

- Chair: Angela Ferruzza, National Institute of Statistics of Italy

It seems no region in the world is immune to the effects of extreme events and disasters. Having good data is one of the requirements for effective risk reduction and recovery. In February 2015, the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians decided to establish a UNECE Task Force on measuring extreme events and disasters. When this area was first discussed at 2015 Expert Forum, the recurring issue was the importance of joint international work across user communities and expert networks working on statistics, climate issues, spatial data and disaster risk reduction.

The session will discuss data gaps and possibilities provided by the combination of earth observations, existing statistics and geospatial data, and share the results of a survey on how statistical offices are currently contributing to this area. The session will also reflect on the collaboration needed to measure progress towards the 2030 Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction.

The way forward

- Seminar Chair: Nina Holmengen, Norwegian Environment Agency

The session will discuss the conclusions of the Expert Forum highlighting concrete issues for further work and ways to respond to emerging issues. The session will also discuss next steps in implementing the *CES Recommendations*.

After the meeting, UNECE will draft a report with key issues raised at the Expert Forum.

* * * * *