



UNECE

Conference of European Statisticians

Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics

3-4 October 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

CONCEPT NOTE

UNECE will organize the Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics on 3-4 October 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting will start at 09:30 on 3 October and finish at 17:30 on 4 October. Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian will be provided.

Meeting documents will be available at the UNECE website:

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50812>

Introduction

UNECE Steering Group on climate change-related statistics (SGCC)¹ will organize the next Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics in Geneva on 3-4 October 2019. The Expert Forum will take place in the Palais des Nations. Previous Expert Fora for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics were held in autumn 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015.

The meeting will discuss how to develop official statistics to respond to the data reporting requirements relating to climate change that arise from global agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Expert Forum also follows up on the implementation of *Conference of European Statisticians' Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics* (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=37166>), endorsed in April 2014 by more than 60 countries and international organizations.

The event will be open for all countries and organizations producing or using climate change-related data.

Objectives of the Expert Forum

The main objective of the Expert Forum is to provide a platform for users and producers of climate change-related statistics to share experience in developing official statistics and capacity for climate change-related reporting.

¹ The Steering Group includes Luxembourg (Chair), Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Sweden and European Environment Agency (EEA), Eurostat, FAO, International Energy Agency (IEA), Midsummer Analytics and the Secretariat of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The 2019 Forum will in particular:

- Discuss the requirements for statistical information related to climate change adaptation and hazardous events and disasters (HED)
- Identify action points for statistical operationalisation of climate change adaptation and HED
- Review the progress of the Task Force on a set of climate change-related indicators and inform about related work at the global level
- Provide national case examples on the implementation of climate change-related statistics, and discuss related challenges and solutions, including the use of new data sources such as big data and geospatial data
- Discuss conceptual and methodological links between climate change and some selected areas, such as health or biodiversity
- Discuss the role of the statistical community in climate action
- Develop recommendations for the follow up work for the Steering Group and the Task Forces.

Sessions of the Expert Forum

The substantive sessions of the forum will be organised as a combination of presentations from countries and international organisations, followed by panel discussions and concluded by session chairs.

Cross-cutting issues, such as the use of new data sources (for example big data and geospatial data) or institutional collaboration, will be discussed in all sessions.

All participants of the Expert Forum are encouraged to bring a computer, cell phone or tablet which can be connected to the internet (free Wi-Fi available in the meeting room). The Expert Forum will include several opportunities for participants to interact with presenters and panellists through electronic tools in addition to interventions from the floor.

The Expert Forum will include the following sessions:

1. Opening and setting the scene

Session organisers: Olivier Thunus (UNECE Steering Group Chair, National Institute of Statistics of Luxembourg) and Michael Nagy (UNECE Secretariat)

A key-note speaker will be invited to set the scene and to open the Expert Forum.

This session will introduce the topics and objectives of the Expert Forum. It will also inform about recent developments relevant for climate change-related statistics at global and regional level.

2. Climate change adaptation and hazardous events and disasters

Session organisers: Giovanna Tagliacozzo (National Institute of Statistics of Italy) and Rayen Quiroga (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean)

Given the overlaps between topics of statistics related to climate change adaptation and hazardous events and disasters, these issues will be addressed in one session.

The session will include presentations of countries and international organisations, and a panel discussion of producers and users of statistics related to climate change adaptation, hazardous events and disasters.

UNFCCC will be invited to present the outcomes of the Conference of Parties (COP 24) and the expected discussions at the upcoming COP 25 related to measuring climate change adaptation and the use of official statistics.

Countries will be invited to present their experiences in producing statistics related to climate change adaptation and/or hazardous events and disasters. The presentations will discuss main challenges and solutions, institutional collaboration and the use of new data sources, such as geospatial data.

A panel of producers and users of these statistics will discuss, amongst other issues:

- The roles of national statistical offices (NSOs) and national statistical systems (NSS) related to climate change adaptation and HED
- Recommended implementation steps and needs for capacity development
- Main challenges and possible solutions, including the role of new data sources (e.g. big data)

The session will also include an update on recent development of guidelines and recommendations for statistical operationalisation of measurements related to climate change adaptation and hazardous events and disasters. The *Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous events and Disasters* will be presented in more detail, as the document was endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in June 2019.

One important outcome of the session is initial recommendations to countries and international organisations on the way forward towards better operationalisation of measuring climate change adaptation, hazardous events and disasters.

3. Climate Change-related Statistics and Indicators

Session organisers: Angelica Tudini (National Institute of Statistics of Italy, Chair of UNECE Task Force on a Set of Core Climate Change-Related Statistics) and Viveka Palm (Statistics Sweden)

An *Initial Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators* was developed by a UNECE Task Force and endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in June 2017. The work, taking into account both the indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, proposes an internationally comparable set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators that can be derived from the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) and other statistical frameworks.

During the session, the UNECE Task Force will present interim results of the follow up work requested by the CES and conducted in 2018 and 2019: refinement of the set of indicators and identification of a set of operational and contextual indicators to accompany the recommended set of core indicators. The session will also discuss the links with the SEEA research agenda and the SEEA community. A specific focus will be given to indicators related to health and/or biodiversity.

United Nations Statistics Division will be invited to report on the progress of the project for developing this global set of statistics and indicators, based on the 2016 the United Nations Statistical Commission decision 47/112 to develop a global set of climate change statistics and indicators based on the set developed by the UNECE Task Force.

Countries will be invited to share their experience of implementing a national set of climate-change related indicators, and discuss related challenges and solutions, including the use of new data sources such as big data or geospatial data.

A panel of national experts will discuss how the set of indicators and statistics can be implemented in the region. Guiding questions for the panel discussion will include:

- What is needed to strengthen capacity and collaboration?
- What are specific (anticipated) challenges and possible solutions?
- How could new data sources (big data, geospatial, etc.) be used?
- How can the set of indicators be disseminated and used?

The main objectives of the session are to provide guidance for the completion of the work of the UNECE Task Force, to identify links with the SEEA research agenda, the use of SEEA for SDGs and to discuss the specific requirements of countries of the region to produce and disseminate a set of climate change-related statistics.

4. Role of statistical community in climate action

Session organisers: Maaïke Bouwmeester (Eurostat) and Vlad Trusca (UNFCCC)

Although the statistical community is making progress in implementing climate change-related statistics and supporting climate change policies, the demands and the complexity of issues related to climate change are also continuously increasing. With the adoption of Paris Agreement in 2015 and the rules for its implementation in December 2018, countries will have to set up much more detailed reporting processes covering a broader spectrum of issues than GHG emissions, including climate change adaptation. The scientific community focuses more and more on understanding socioeconomic drivers and impacts of climate change. The number of stakeholders in climate change related community, with different information needs, is growing, and official statistics is an indispensable data source for many of them. To anticipate the upcoming demands and to address the most important needs, the statistical community needs to reassess how it can best contribute to addressing climate change in this multi-stakeholder environment. It will require the statistical community to be active in this domain as an equal and full partner of policymakers, scientists, NGOs and international organizations on the national and international level.

International organisations, such as UNFCCC and the European Commission, will be invited to present their specific expectations from official statistics.

NSOs will be invited to share their experience in collaboration with users of official statistics for climate change policies.

A panel of national experts, representatives of international organisations and academia will discuss:

- How awareness can be increased what the statistical community and NSO have to offer for climate change action
- What more can be done to establish active partnerships between policymakers, statisticians and scientists in the area of climate change

The main objective of the session is to better understand how (potential) users and producers of official statistics see the role of NSOs in climate action.

The inputs collected in this session will be included in a paper on the role of statistical community in climate action submitted to the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians in 2019 for their in-depth review.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

Session Organisers: Olivier Thunus (UNECE Steering Group Chair, National Institute of Statistics of Luxembourg) and Michael Nagy (UNECE Secretariat)

The session will discuss the conclusions of the Expert Forum highlighting concrete issues for further work and ways to respond to emerging issues. The conclusions will feed into further work of UNECE and its partners in climate change-related statistics and provide input for the planning of the next Expert Forum in 2020.

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