

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

31 August - 3 September 2021, Geneva, Switzerland, online

CONCEPT NOTE

*The UNECE Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics will take place as an **online meeting** from 31 August to 3 September 2021.*

The meeting will take place in English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation. The timetable and all other documents related to the meeting will be posted on the meeting website: <https://unece.org/statistics/events/expert-forum-producers-and-users-climate-change-related-statistics-3>.

I. Introduction

The UNECE Expert Fora for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics have been organized annually since 2014 to serve as a platform for collaboration, sharing ideas and experience, discussing concepts and measurement issues, and identifying areas for development of practical guidance. The Expert Fora provide a link between producers and users of climate information and follow up on the [Conference of European Statisticians' Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics](#) endorsed in 2014 by more than 60 countries and international organizations.

The Expert Fora are organized by the UNECE Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics (SGCC), which is currently composed of the Netherlands (Chair), Canada, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, European Environment Agency (EEA), Eurostat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Energy Agency (IEA), Midsummer Analytics (Canada), Bennett Institute for Public Policy of the University of Cambridge, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Secretariat of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

II. Format and language

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics will take place as an online meeting on four consecutive days from 31 August to 3 September 2021. The meeting will have simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian. The Expert Forum is open to all countries and organizations producing or using climate change-related data.

The meeting will consist of four sessions. The sessions will include presentations from representatives of countries, international organizations and academia, and discussions. In each session, participants will have the opportunity to raise questions and actively participate in the discussion. Each session will be concluded by its chair with a summary of the main outcomes.

III. Objectives of the Expert Forum

The 2021 Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics will aim to:

- Facilitate sharing of knowledge and experience on developing new change-related statistics and improving usefulness of the existing data.
- Support implementation of the [CES Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics \(2014\)](#) and the [CES Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics Using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting \(2020\)](#).
- Inform about related developments like Paris Agreement data needs, SDG indicators and the UNSD global set of climate change indicators.
- Show good practices in producing, disseminating and using climate change-related statistics.
- Identify priorities for future work.

IV. Call for contributions

All countries and organizations are invited to contribute their experience on the topics of the meeting (see section V) in the form of presentations (in English or Russian) and/or papers.

Please communicate your interest to contribute to the secretariat (cwiek@un.org) by 21 May, describing in 2-3 sentences the planned content of your contribution.

All received contributions will be published on the Expert Forum website and feed into the [UNECE wiki of good practices in climate change-related statistics](#)¹. The session organizers will select the contributions to be presented at the meeting and inform the authors.

V. Sessions of the Expert Forum

The Expert Forum will include the following sessions:

- **Setting the scene**
- **Measuring climate change vulnerability and adaptation**
- **Carbon footprint and consumption-based emissions**
- **Good practices in producing, disseminating and using climate change-related statistics**

1. Setting the scene

Session organizers: Arthur Denneman (UNECE Steering Group Chair, Statistics Netherlands) Malgorzata Cwiek and Michael Nagy (UNECE Secretariat)

¹ Contributions to the [UNECE wiki of good practices in climate change-related statistics](#) are welcome throughout the year. To submit a good practice example, please send to the secretariat (cwiek@un.org) a brief description of: (1) accomplished work; (2) achieved results; (3) main difficulties and (4) hyperlink to further information.

The main objective of the session is to provide a common foundation for the sessions on the following days. The session will be an opportunity to:

- Take stock of the recent work of the Steering Group
- Share information about recent developments at the global level, including the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development
- Present the outcomes of other work under the Conference of European Statisticians relevant for climate change-related statistics, such as the Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on the Implementation of System of Environmental-Economic Accounts and the first Expert Forum on Disaster-Related Statistics

2. Measuring climate change vulnerability and adaptation

Session organizers: Giovanna Tagliacozzo (Italian National Institute of Statistics)

This session will follow up on the session on measuring climate change adaptation at the 2020 Expert Forum. The presentations and conclusions from the 2020 meeting are available on the meeting [website](#) in English and Russian.

Green recovery plans, the European Green Deal and COP26 will all call for huge investment in adaptation and resilience to climate change. Information on how these funds are spent and whether they actually increase resilience will be key for directing the funding and evaluating their successful use. However, measuring climate change adaptation remains a considerable challenge. Vulnerability, exposure to climate-related hazards and possible adaptation actions vary tremendously between and within countries and regions and over time, and are interconnected. Although it is not possible to have a fully harmonized, internationally agreed set of statistics and indicators, the CES core set of climate change-related indicators and the UNSD Global Set can help NSOs to start providing some minimum information and improve the knowledge on climate change adaptation, vulnerability, exposure and resilience. In addition, context-specific statistics and indicators will be needed for to inform policy and action at the local level.

As shown by the UNECE survey conducted prior to the 2020 Expert Forum, many NSOs already undertake or plan some activities related to climate change adaptation, such as producing relevant statistics, linking and disseminating data from other producers or supporting the monitoring of national adaptation plans. Following the recommendation of the 2020 Expert Forum, this session will aim to move forward by sharing best practices, starting with available relevant indicators, analysing interlinkages, clustering relevant thematic areas and creating taxonomies. The session will:

- Share and discuss practical examples of climate change adaptation and vulnerability statistics and indicators used in countries, considering also different geomorphological areas (such as coastal or mountain areas) or different levels of urbanization (urban or rural areas).
- Share experience of other activities related to providing data on climate change adaptation, e.g. linking and disseminating data from other producers, supporting monitoring of national adaptation plans, providing data for risk maps, including nature-based solution strategies.
- Identify interlinkages, clusters of topics and areas of the highest relevance to CES countries.
- Share knowledge and good practices of statistical, policy and research communities working on climate change adaptation.

3. Carbon footprint and consumption-based emissions

Session organizers: Olivier Thunus (National Institute of Statistics of Luxembourg), Stephan Moll (Eurostat) and Matthew Agarwala (Bennett Institute of the Cambridge University)

This session will discuss concepts, experiences and challenges related to producing and using carbon footprints and consumption-based emissions. Carbon footprint is indicator 15 of the [CES Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics Using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting](#).

Carbon footprints play a large role in the public debate about climate change – they provide insight into the international impact of consumer behaviours and can shed light on adverse effects of some mitigation policies, such as increased global emissions arising from offshoring production to countries with higher carbon intensity (carbon leakage). By offering this different perspective, consumption-based estimates are an important complementary measure to the territory- and economy-based estimates. However, there are also many methodological and communication challenges associated with this complex indicator, which should be taken into account to avoid its misuse and misinterpretation.

This session will:

- Introduce the concept and rationale for producing carbon footprint and consumption-based emission estimates.
- Share practical experience of countries and organizations.
- Discuss methodological and communication challenges.

4. Good practices in producing, disseminating and using climate change-related statistics:

Session organizer: To be confirmed

Official statistics relevant for climate change analysis and policy cut across all statistical domains and come from many data sources, not necessarily following harmonized methodologies or being accessible from a single-entry point. In addition, the other climate change information, such as data about atmosphere, weather, hydrology, and ecosystems, are often not produced by the statistical system but by other organizations like environmental agencies or ministries and hydrometeorological institutes.

According to the [2014 CES Recommendations](#), NSOs can play an important role in unleashing the full value of climate-related data within and beyond the national statistical system by making them more accessible, coherent, easy to use and understandable. Key initiatives in this area are, for example, developing national indicator sets, climate change information portals (also at a local level) or other climate-focused statistical products and publications. More involvement of NSOs in such data production processes may not only ensure the quality and coherence of the disseminated data, but also support the data users in understanding what data is available, what it means and how it can be used.

This session will provide an opportunity to share experiences on:

- Producing national climate change indicator sets, climate change-related information portals, databases or reports.

- Improving quality and coherence of statistics, indicators and data produced across the national statistical system and beyond, including use of statistics and indicators for measuring green recovery and reporting on interlinked frameworks (e.g. SDGs, Sendai, Paris Agreement).
- Promoting and facilitating the use of climate change-related statistics.
- Communicating differences between data sources and conceptual frameworks and their relative strengths.

VI. Further information

All documents, including the timetable, will be available at the meeting website: <https://unece.org/statistics/events/expert-forum-producers-and-users-climate-change-related-statistics-3>. Registered participants will receive connection details nearer to the meeting dates.

VII. Contact

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