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

Geneva, Switzerland, 28-30 August 2023

CONCEPT NOTE

The UNECE Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics is planned to take place from 28 to 30 August 2023 in Geneva.

The meeting is planned to be held in person only. Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian will be provided for most of the meeting. Updates and all documents related to the meeting will be posted on the meeting website: https://unece.org/statistics/events/EFCCRS2023

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 future work. 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), currently chaired by the Netherlands.

II.   Format and language

The 2023 Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics is planned as an in-person meeting.

Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian will be provided during the first and third day of the meeting. The second day of the meeting will be in English only.

The Expert Forum is open to all countries and organizations producing or using climate change-related data.

The meeting will consist of seven sessions. The sessions will include presentations from representatives of countries and international organizations and discussions. In each session, participants will have the opportunity of active participation. Each session will be concluded by its chair with a summary of the main outcomes.

III. Objectives of the Expert Forum

The 2023 Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics will aim to:

- Provide a platform for dialogue between producers and users of climate change-related statistics
- Facilitate sharing of knowledge and experience in developing new climate change-related statistics and improving the usefulness of the existing data
- Show good practices in producing, disseminating and using climate change-related statistics
- Review and provide feedback on the draft *Guidance on the role of national statistical offices in achieving national climate objectives* developed by a dedicated UNECE Task Force
- 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)
- Identify priorities for future work.

IV. Topics of the Expert Forum

The Expert Forum is planned to include the following sessions:

1. **Setting the scene**
2. **Informing climate change mitigation policies**
3. **Informing climate change adaptation policies**
4. **Data needed to support a just transition**
5. **Climate finance and the economic aspects of climate change**
6. **Producing, disseminating and communicating climate change-related statistics and indicators for policymakers and the public**
7. **Conclusions**

Each session will aim to discuss best practices, existing challenges and recommendations on how to improve statistics and data for climate policy and analysis in a particular area.

The session topics are closely related to the work of the UNECE Task Force on the role of national statistical offices in achieving national climate objectives, which will present the draft outcome of its work during the 2023 Expert Forum and seek feedback from the meeting participants.

1. Setting the scene

The main objective of the session will be to provide a common foundation for the rest of the Expert Forum. The session will be an opportunity to take stock of the recent work of the Steering Group and the new UNECE Task Force on the role of NSOs in achieving national climate objectives, as well as share information about recent international developments relevant to the production, dissemination and use of climate change-related statistics.

2. Informing climate change mitigation policies

National governments are putting in place increasingly ambitious climate change mitigation policies to deliver on their pledges and contribute to the achievement of the global temperature goal. High-quality data can help governments design evidence-based policies and monitor their success.

The session will discuss data needs and statistical activities related to measuring greenhouse gas emissions, their drivers and mitigation actions, covering such topics as energy transition and carbon footprints.

3. Informing climate change adaptation policies

Climate change adaptation is complex and highly context-specific, as the hazards, vulnerability and exposure vary greatly depending on the country, region, geographic characteristics of the territory, population characteristics, etc. Ensuring the availability of relevant statistics is vital for informing evidence-based adaptation policies and plans and monitoring their results, and requires close collaboration between producers and users of the information to prioritize according to national circumstances.

The session will discuss how to effectively produce and use data to inform climate adaptation policies and what role can national statistical offices play in this area, including:

- Measuring climate-related vulnerability, hazards, impacts and adaptation
- Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation plans
- Improving the availability of geospatially enabled data relevant to climate change adaptation
- Collaboration between statistical producers and local data users, e.g. municipalities or cities, and with local data producers

4. Data needed to support a just transition

Achieving climate goals requires an economic transformation of unprecedented speed and scale. The "Just transition" approach aims to ensure that this transformation happens in a fair and inclusive way, maximizing the socioeconomic opportunities of climate action, minimizing the associated challenges and leaving no one behind.

Plans and policies aiming to achieve a just transition should require granular data allowing the policymakers to identify vulnerable population groups and socioeconomic issues related to climate policies. Examples of such issues could include people from marginalized groups who cannot move to a low-carbon economy for financial reasons, changes in the structure of the labour market due to the disappearance of jobs in fossil fuel industries or energy poverty.

The session will discuss examples of statistical products or activities which can be useful for formulating and monitoring just transition policies through, e.g. producing climate change-related statistics or indicators disaggregated by household characteristics or gender, measuring effects of climate policies on any particular socioeconomic groups, producing statistics or indicators on energy poverty etc.

5. Measuring climate finance and economic aspects of climate change

Climate change introduces transition and financial stability risks in the global economy. High-quality data are needed for the public and the private sector to efficiently price and manage these risks. At the same time, countries need to make informed decisions on investment in climate action and monitor their effects.

The session will aim to discuss statistical developments related to measuring climate finance economic aspects of climate change, data gaps and needs in this area, and how national statistical offices can contribute to addressing them.

6. Producing, disseminating and communicating climate change-related statistics and indicators for policymakers and the public

The Paris Agreement calls for national governments to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information, recognizing the importance of these steps for enhancing global climate action and achieving global climate objectives. Timely,

relevant and accessible climate change-related statistics can help to address this call and increase public awareness of climate-related issues.

The session will discuss:

- Best practices in producing, disseminating and communicating climate change-related statistics and indicators – what statistical producers are already doing, and what products and formats are most valued by the users? What kind of statistics and data are sought after by the public, journalists and civil society?
- Examples of engaging with the public and providing active user support in facilitating accessibility and use of climate change-related statistics
- Approaches to understanding user needs and ensuring the relevance of climate change-related statistics.

7. Conclusions and recommendations

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 UNECE work in climate change-related statistics and provide input for planning the next Expert Forum in 2024.

V. Further information

All documents, including the concept note and timetable, will be available on the [meeting website](.).

VI. Contact

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