UNECE
Conference of European Statisticians

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

28 September – 1 October 2020, Geneva, Switzerland (virtual meeting)

CONCEPT NOTE

The UNECE Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics will take place as a virtual meeting on four consecutive days from 28 September to 1 October 2020. Meeting sessions will start each day at 13:00 CEST and last for two to three hours. The Secretariat is exploring options for providing interpretation to English and Russian for the virtual meeting.

Meeting documents will be available at the UNECE website:
http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53848

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 follow up on the *Conference of European Statisticians' Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics*[1] endorsed by more than 60 countries and international organizations and provide a link between producers and users of climate information.

The Expert Fora are organized by the UNECE Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics (SGCC) composed of Luxembourg (Chair), Canada, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom, European Environment Agency (EEA), Eurostat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Energy Agency (IEA), Midsummer Analytics and the Secretariat of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

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

Format

Due to the travel restrictions related to COVID-19, the 2020 UNECE Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics will take place as a virtual meeting. The sessions of the Expert Forum will be held on four consecutive days from 28 September to 1 October 2020.

[1] https://www.unece.org/stats/publications/ces_climatechange.html

The sessions will include presentations from countries and international organizations and discussions involving interactive polling tools. 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 and recommendations. The conclusions of all sessions will be circulated to all the participants after the meeting.

Objectives of the Expert Forum

The 2020 Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics will aim to:

- Inform about relevant global and regional developments (e.g. developments related to the Paris Agreement, revisions of SDG indicators, CES core set of climate change-related indicators and statistics, the global set of climate change indicators)
- Highlight the role of official statistics in informing climate action and identify practical steps how the statistical community can step up its engagement at national and international levels
- Collect practical experiences of collecting and using data related to climate change adaptation and identify what could be done to address existing conceptual and methodological challenges
- Explore how climate change-related statistics can inform measuring of the impact of climate change on inclusive wealth
- Identify priorities for future work of the Steering Group

Sessions of the Expert Forum

The Expert Forum will include the following sessions:

- Setting the scene (28 September 2020)
- Role of the statistical community in climate action (29 September 2020)
- Measuring climate change adaptation (30 September 2020)
- Linkages between climate, wealth and well-being (1 October 2020)

SGCC plans to organize in 2021 a separate webinar dedicated to sharing practical experience in implementing the CES Updated Set of Core climate change-related statistics and indicators endorsed by Conference of European Statisticians in June 2020[2].

1. Setting the scene (28 September 2020)

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

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 what has been achieved by the Steering Group and its task forces on climate change-related statistics and indicators and measuring hazardous events and disasters
- Share information about recent developments on the global level, among others concerning the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

[2] https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53381

- Reflect on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on climate change-related statistics

2. Role of the statistical community in climate action (29 September 2020)

Session organizers: Arthur Denneman (Statistics Netherlands)

This session will build upon the findings of the in-depth review of the role of the statistical community in climate action conducted by the CES Bureau in February 2020[3] and the outcomes of a similar session of the 2019 Expert Forum[4].

Under the Paris Agreement, national governments need to put in place increasingly ambitious mitigation and adaptation policies declared in their nationally determined contributions. These policies should be driven by reliable data and the lack thereof can be a major impediment to climate action. National statistical offices can play an essential role in national climate change information systems. More involvement of the statistical community is needed.

The session will aim to:

- Highlight practices of leading NSOs in this area: addressing new information needs, engaging with policymakers and academia, overcoming fragmentation of data, cooperating with other data producers and demonstrating the value of official statistics
- Identify practical steps for NSOs: how to engage with national stakeholders, how to organize work with limited resources, in which areas NSOs are best suited to contribute
- Discuss how the statistical community can be more involved in the relevant work or events of the broader climate data community and what steps are needed at the international level to support NSOs that would like to step up their role

3. Measuring climate change adaptation (30 September 2020)

Session organizers: TBA

Measuring climate change adaptation is a particular challenge as there is no global conceptual framework on this issue, progress on adaptation is context-specific and difficult to quantify. However, data and evidence related to climate change adaptation are essential for national and international climate change policies, including Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The main objectives of the session are to:

- Exchange information about new methodological and conceptual developments
- Share practical experiences of collecting and using data related to climate change adaptation and collaboration between relevant institutions at the national and sub-national level
- Identify low-hanging fruits in NSOs for measuring climate change adaptation
- Identify what could be done by the international statistical community to address the conceptual and methodological challenges at the international level

[3] http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/2020/21Add.1_In-depth_Review_Climate_Action_full_version.pdf
[4] http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50812

4. Linkages between climate, wealth and well-being (1 October 2020)

Session organizer: Rob Smith (Midsummer Analytics)

This session will explore how climate change-related statistics can inform measuring of the impact of climate change on inclusive wealth. Inclusive wealth is the value of all assets of the society, including the economic, natural, human and social capital. This total value of all assets should be increasing over time to guarantee the sustainability of the economies and the wellbeing of people living in them. Climate change has an impact on all these types of capital, and climate change-related statistics can help to improve the understanding of this effect and the vulnerability of the inclusive wealth to climate change.

This session will provide an opportunity for experts from countries, international organizations and academia to:

- Share emerging conceptual and statistical approaches to considering climate as an asset that contributes to inclusive wealth and measuring its depletion
- Discuss financial aspects of climate change and how carbon accounting and carbon footprint calculation can help to link climate change with economic cost

Further information

All the documents, including the timetable, will be available at the meeting website: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53848.

Registered participants will receive connection details nearer to the meeting dates.

Contact

Ms. Malgorzata Cwiek
Statistician
UNECE Statistical Division
Palais des Nations
CH 1211 GENEVA 10, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 917 3865
E-mail: cwiek@un.org

Ms. Caroline Jeunet
Programme Assistant
UNECE Statistical Division
Palais des Nations
CH 1211 GENEVA 10, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 917 3242
E-mail: caroline.jeunet@un.org

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