



UNECE

Conference of European Statisticians

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

3-5 October 2017, Rome, Italy

CONCEPT NOTE

UNECE will organize the Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics on 3-5 October 2017. The meeting will be hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy. The meeting will start at 14:00 on 3 October and finish at 17:30 on 5 October. Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian will be provided.

Meeting documents will be available at the UNECE website:

www.unece.org/stats/documents/2017.10.climate.html

Introduction

The previous Expert Forums for producers and users of climate change-related statistics were held on 5-7 October 2016 and 2-3 September 2015 involving about 80 participants.

FAO will host the next UNECE Expert Forum in Rome, on 3-5 October 2017. The meeting will discuss how to develop official statistics to respond to the data reporting requirements arising from global agreements, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relating to climate change. **The meeting will share experience on developing official statistics for climate reporting, focusing this year especially on the underlying data and accounts on agriculture, forestry and land use.**

The Expert Forum follows up on the *Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics*, which more than 60 countries and international organizations endorsed in April 2014 at the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). The 2017 meeting will review countries' experience in implementing a set of climate change-related indicators, to be endorsed by the CES plenary session in June 2017. The meeting will discuss countries' experience in preparing road maps to develop official statistics for climate purposes, and it will consider the role of official statistics in measuring disasters and extreme events. The special session will focus on the data needs related to agriculture, forestry and land use greenhouse gas emissions.

The Expert Forum will be open for all countries and organizations producing or using climate change data. It will provide a link between producers and users of climate information.

UNECE Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics (SGCC) will organize the Expert Forum. The group includes Norway (Chair), Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Netherlands, Russian Federation and DG Climate Action of the European Commission, European Environment

Agency (EEA), Eurostat, FAO, International Energy Agency (IEA), Midsummer Analytics and UNFCCC.

Sessions of the Expert Forum

The Expert Forum will include the following sessions:

1. Session: Setting the scene

- Seminar Chair: Nina Holmengen, Norwegian Environment Agency, UNECE Steering Group Chair

This session will set the scene and introduce the topics of the Expert Forum. It will also provide an update on the process of defining the technical data requirements of the 2015 Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, agreed in Marrakesh in December 2016. **The reporting will require basic statistical data for greenhouse gas emission inventories, data relating to mitigation measures and their effects, vulnerability and adaptation, as well as data on (provided and received) support for climate action.** National statistical offices and other producers of related data should be aware of the new requirements. Countries will also need to prepare and submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which is a new, important element of the reporting under the UNFCCC. Many of the NDCs will be based on official statistics, for instance on energy efficiency.

2. Session: Climate Change-relevant data on Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use

- Chair: FAO

The 2016 Expert Forum discussed possible changing topics for next years, and selected agriculture, forestry and other land use among the top priorities. Food security, food production, forests and land use are relevant to several SDG targets and indicators and feature prominently as a critical issue in national greenhouse gas inventories and Nationally Determined Contributions, submitted by countries under the UNFCCC. There are nonetheless critical gaps in data, knowledge and capacity to produce the necessary information for supporting climate change impact and response analysis, including emission inventories.

The session will discuss countries' needs and FAO activities with respect to climate-change relevant data on agriculture, forestry and other land use, in support of improved evidence-based decision making for national planning and international reporting, in the context of UNFCCC and the SDG process.

3. Session: Implementing the set of climate change indicators

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

A *Set of Key Climate Change-related Indicators* was developed by a UNECE Task Force, established by the CES Bureau in October 2014. A report with the indicator set will be submitted to the CES plenary session for endorsement in June 2017. The report provides an internationally comparable set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators that can be derived from SEEA and other statistical frameworks. The work takes into account the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction.

At countries' request, **the session will discuss how to implement the set of climate indicators, and several national statistical offices will present the results of a pilot testing of the indicator set.** The session will identify data gaps and areas that require methodological guidance based on the experience gained during the pilot testing.

4. Measurement of disasters and extreme events

- Chair: Angela Ferruzza, National Institute of Statistics of Italy and Piero Conforti, FAO

Having good data is a requirement for effective risk reduction and recovery. **National statistical offices produce statistics necessary for disaster risk reduction e.g. data on the population, housing, economic and agricultural sites, energy infrastructure, road and railway transport, airports, education and health facilities.** A measurement framework is being developed for the 2030 Sendai Framework on disaster risk reduction in coordination by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Disaster risk experts call for a close involvement of the statistical community in defining the data reporting requirements to ensure high-quality standards and benefits from official statistics.

A UNECE Task Force on measuring extreme events and disasters is defining the role of official statistics in this area jointly with UNISDR. The session will discuss data gaps and possibilities offered by using existing official statistics, statistical standards and common definitions for the monitoring of disaster risk reduction.

5. Session: Road maps and success stories – developing official statistics for climate change analysis

- Chair: Rob Smith, UNECE Steering Group Vice-Chair

A template for developing national road maps to improve climate change-related statistics was agreed upon at the 2016 Expert Forum. Participants emphasized that the preparation of road maps is an effective way of improving the quality and relevance of statistics and building partnerships. **The road maps support the implementation of the *Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics to improve official statistics for climate change analysis and reporting under the UNFCCC.***

This session will discuss countries' progress in developing climate change-related statistics, present countries' experience from developing the first road maps to improve these statistics and share success stories in the development of climate change-related statistics to enable mutual learning.

The way forward

- Seminar Chair: Nina Holmengen, Norwegian Environment Agency,
UNECE Steering Group Chair

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.

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