UNECE
Conference of European Statisticians

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

2-4 October 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

CONCEPT NOTE

UNECE will organize the Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics on 2-4 October 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting will start at 14:30 on 2 October and finish at 17:30 on 4 October. Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian will be provided.

Meeting documents will be available at the UNECE website: http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2018.10.climate.html

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 2-4 October 2018. 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 October 2017, October 2016 and September 2015.

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 Expert Forum follows up on the *Conference of European Statisticians' Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics* (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=37166), which more than 60 countries and international organizations endorsed in April 2014.

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

Objective of the Expert Forum

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

[1] The Steering Group includes Luxembourg (Chair), Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation and DG Climate Action of the European Commission, European Environment Agency (EEA), Eurostat, FAO, International Energy Agency (IEA), Midsummer Analytics and UNFCCC.

The 2018 Forum will in particular:

- Review the progress of the Task Force on a Set of Climate Change-Related Indicators and inform about related work at the global level;
- Inform about recent developments on climate change adaptation policies and identify related challenges for official statistics;
- Discuss the role of official statistics in measuring extreme events and disasters, and in particular the role of NSOs to produce related indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster-Risk Reduction;
- Provide case examples where national roadmaps on climate change-related statistics helped to enhance the collaboration between NSOs and other governmental bodies;
- Explore the use of geospatial data and earth observations with climate change statistics;
- Develop recommendations for the follow up work for the Steering Group and the Task Forces.

Sessions of the Expert Forum

The Expert Forum will include the following sessions:

1. Setting the scene

Session organiser: UNECE Steering Group Chair

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

2. Set of climate change-related indicators

Session organiser: Angelica Tudini, National Institute of Statistics of Italy, Chair of UNECE Task Force on a Set of Core Climate Change-Related Statistics

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 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: refinement of the set of indicators and identification of a set of operational and contextual indicators to accompany the recommended set of core indicators. Experts from countries and international organisations will be invited to present their experiences in the production and use of climate-change related statistics and indicators and to contribute to the discussion.

In 2016 the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted decision 47/112 which considers the UNECE set of indicators as a basis for developing a global set of climate change statistics and indicators. UNSD will be invited to report on the progress of the project for developing this global set of statistics and indicators.

The main objectives of the session are to discuss these initiatives and to formulate recommendations for further work.

3. Statistics on climate change adaptation

Session organiser: Giovanna Tagliacozzo, National Institute of Statistics of Italy & Sergio Castellari, European Environment Agency

Issues of climate change adaptation (CCA) feature prominently both in targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, but there is no internationally harmonised set of CCA indicators. As per the *Report on countries' progress in climate change related statistics* (2016), only 7% of NSOs compile such statistics on a regular basis. This area has been recognized as particularly challenging by the Task Force on a Set of Climate Change Related Indicators and by the 2017 Expert Forum as an area that requires most methodological work and capacity development.

The session will inform the meeting participants about recent developments on impact, vulnerability and climate change adaptation indicators and the coherence between CCA and disaster risk reduction (DRR), including the *European Climate Change and Adaptation Platform* (CLIMATE-ADAPT, https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/), two recent reports of the European Environment Agency such as *National climate change vulnerability and risk assessments in Europe (*2018) (https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/national-climate-change-vulnerability-2018) and Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Europe (https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/climate-change-adaptation-and-disaster), the recent report *European State of the Climate 2017* (https://climate.copernicus.eu/CopernicusESC), and the EC evaluation of the EU Adaptation Strategy to be concluded in 2018

The session will furthermore review the current availability of adaptation statistics at national level, discuss methodological and practical challenges of producing statistics on adaptation on the basis of national specificities, and look for possible recommendations on future work in this area.

4. Measurement of extreme events and disasters

Session organiser: Angela Ferruzza, National Institute of Statistics of Italy, Chair of UNECE Task Force on measuring Extreme Events and Disasters

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.

Both, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 as well as the Agenda 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals), do not only provide new challenges for NSOs, but also initiated several international activities to harmonise data, classifications and methodologies. This includes the work of the UNECE Task Force on measuring extreme events and disasters on defining the role of NSOs, the drafting of a Disaster Related Statistics Framework (DRSF, http://communities.unescap.org/asia-pacific-expert-group-disaster-related-statistics/content/drsf) by UNESCAP and the development of technical guidance for monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving the global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/54970) by UNISDR.

The importance of the topic for the statistical community has been acknowledged by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in its 49th session in 2018. It was agreed that disaster-related statistics will be a separate agenda item in future sessions of the UNSC.

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 and related Sustainable Development Goals.

The session will furthermore present latest developments of international guidelines on disaster-related statistics and case studies from selected countries on the role of official statistics in measuring extreme events and disasters.

5. Use of geospatial data and earth observations with climate change statistics

Session organiser: Greg Scott, United Nations Statistics Division

With greater emphasis on countries being able to measure and monitor progress, the demands and expectations of the global development agendas necessitate new and innovative data sources, acquisition and integration approaches, and the need for high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, including Earth observations and geospatial information, to address development challenges – including climate change.

The effective use and integration of geospatial data and Earth observations, combined with statistical, demographic and environmental data, offer new opportunities for countries for analysis and modelling where conditions are changing over time, evaluating impacts across sectors and regions, and improving decisions, policy and accountability. These data provide the context, location and changing conditions for many aspects of our planet and lives – on the state of the atmosphere, oceans, water resources, soils, crops, forests, ecosystems, natural resources, cities, settlements, infrastructure and much more.

While there is an increasing realization of the relevance and application of geospatial information and Earth observations, these integrative technologies, data sources and associated analytical methods are not yet well understood by many NSO's.

The session will introduce and explore the potential and use of geospatial data and Earth observations for climate change and disaster statistics based on existing best practices and practical examples. It will also demonstrate how such data can assist NSOs in providing better and more consistent climate change adaptation and mitigation-related statistics at multiple scales and resolutions. A number of countries and international organisations will be invited to present their work and experiences.

6. Cooperation and collaboration on climate-change related statistics between NSOs and other governmental bodies

Session organiser: Robert Smith, Midsummer Analytics

A template for developing national road maps to improve climate change-related statistics was agreed upon at the 2016 Expert Forum to support the implementation of the *CES Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics* and improve official statistics for climate change analysis and reporting under the UNFCCC.

As discussed in the 2017 Expert Forum, cooperation between all departments relevant to climate change is necessary in the development of roadmaps for climate change-related statistics and achieving progress in their implementation. National statistical offices are not the only providers of climate change-related statistics and therefore they need to establish strong collaboration, preferably based on formalized agreements, with other stakeholders (e.g., ministries in charge of environment or energy) to maximise the synergies, avoid duplication of efforts and achieve progress in the development of regular production of climate change-related statistics.

This session will discuss countries' progress in developing climate change-related statistics, present countries' experience and success stories in the development of road maps to improve these statistics and share success stories in the development of climate change-related statistics. In particular, the presenters will be encouraged to report on the results of actions undertaken to address priority data needs in the last year. The session will discuss common challenges in establishing and maintaining cooperation between NSOs and other government bodies and give the opportunity to share best practices in this area.

7. Way forward

Seminar Chair: 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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