

Economic Commission for Europe

Geneva, 2-4 October 2018

**Short Report of the Expert Forum for producers and users of
climate change-related statistics, 2-4 October 2018, Geneva,
Switzerland**

I. Attendance

1. The UNECE Expert Forum was attended by representatives of Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden (connected by video conference), Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan.
2. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Directorate-General for Climate Action of the European Commission (DG-CLIMA), Eurostat, European Environment Agency (EEA), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Energy Agency (IEA), Global Geospatial Management Secretariat (UN-GGIM), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Environment (UN Environment), United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNECE.
3. City of Oslo, Copernicus Climate Change Service (ECMWF) as well as the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) were also represented.
4. Midsummer Analytics and a representative of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) - ENI SEIS II project also participated in the Expert Forum.

II. Organization of the meeting

5. Olivier Thunus (Statistics Luxembourg) chaired the Expert Forum.

6. The participants adopted the provisional agenda of the Expert Forum.
7. The following substantive topics were discussed:
 - Session 1: Setting the scene (Chair: Olivier Thunus, Luxembourg);
 - Session 2: Set of climate change-relevant indicators (Session Chair: Angelica Tudini, Italy);
 - Session 3: Statistics on climate change adaptation (Session Chairs: Giovanna Tagliacozzo, Italy and Sergio Castellari, European Environment Agency);
 - Session 4: Measurement of hazardous events and disasters (Session Chair: Angela Ferruzza, Italy);
 - Session 5: Use of geospatial data and earth observations with climate change-related statistics (Session Chair: Mark Iliffe, UN-GGIM);
 - Session 6: Cooperation and collaboration on climate change-related statistics (Session Chair: Rob Smith, Midsummer Analytics);
 - Closing: The way forward (Chair: Olivier Thunus, Luxembourg).
8. All documents for the meeting are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47805>.

III. Recommendations for future work

9. The Expert Forum welcomed the work of the Task Force on Climate Change-Related Indicators and emphasized the importance of the alignment of the set of indicators with important policy frameworks (2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement) and statistical frameworks (such as the United Nations Framework for the development of environment statistics and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts). The work of the Task Force on clarification of methodologies and the development of guidelines for data compilation was also welcomed.
10. The Expert Forum supported the approach that a few indicators of international importance will remain “dual”: there will be one indicator reflecting the economy (residential approach) and another indicator reflecting the territory (territorial approach).
11. Global climatological indicators (global temperature rise, atmospheric CO₂ concentration, sea level rise, etc.) are important to provide the right context and should be considered by the Task Force to be included in the set of contextual indicators. Regional breakdowns of these data could be useful.
12. After final development of the set of core climate change-related indicators the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and the UNECE set of environmental indicators could be used as mechanisms to produce and disseminate climate change related statistics and indicators in the region.

13. The Expert Forum highlighted the need to develop statistical guidance for measuring climate change adaptation, and to further discuss this issue at the next meeting.

14. The Expert Forum requested to continue exchange of knowledge and experience on measuring hazardous events and disasters. It was recommended to dedicate a full day to this topic at the next Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-related Statistics, for example an additional day back-to-back to the Expert Forum.

15. The Expert Forum emphasised the importance of using geospatial information and earth observations for improving statistics on climate change and hazardous events and disasters, and recommended to continue the exchange of knowledge and experience at future similar events.

16. The Expert Forum welcomed the examples of efficient collaboration and cooperation on climate change-related statistics within the National Statistical Systems and with other agencies. This kind of collaboration should continue in the future.

17. There is growing demand for disaggregated climate change-related statistics. Meeting this demand is also a way to make greater use of existing data, which increases the overall efficiency and value of the statistical system. More efforts are needed to further align different concepts and classifications as well as to bridge competencies of different expert communities working on climate change monitoring, disaster-risk management, climate change adaptation and official statistics. The Expert Forum called for continued cooperation between international institutions (including WMO, UNFCCC, IPCC, UNISDR, UNSD, UN Regional Commissions and others) and involving the statistical community in the work related to statistics and indicators to monitor SDGs, Sendai Framework and Paris Agreement in a coherent way.

18. The Expert Forum recommended to organise the next Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-related Statistics in about one year's time.

19. It was recommended to invite to the next Expert Forum also some experts representing national hydrometeorological institutes.

IV. Adoption of the report of the meeting

20. The present report was adopted during the closing session.

21. A summary of the discussion in the substantive sessions of the meeting will be prepared after the meeting.

* * * * *