ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS   18 July 2012

MEETING ON CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED STATISTICS
FOR PRODUCERS AND USERS

19-20 November 2012, Geneva, room V

OUTLINE OF THE MEETING

The meeting will start at 9:30 on Monday, 19 November and is scheduled to finish at 17:00 on Tuesday, 20 November 2012. It will take place in room V, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

The meeting will be held in English only. Documents will be available at the UNECE website (www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.11.environ.html).

I.   PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of the meeting will be to explore user demand for climate change related statistics and take stock of what statistical offices are doing in the area. The meeting will be held in the context of the work launched by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in 2011 in response to the global need to improve the quality and availability of climate change related data. In November 2011, the CES set up a Task Force to identify practical steps for development of climate change related statistics, and to explore the data requirements of the producers of greenhouse gas emission inventories.

The meeting will target various producers and users of climate change related statistics. One of the goals is to launch discussions between statisticians and other parties involved in measuring climate change related phenomena. Many different agencies, ministries and research institutes produce and use climate change related data. The meeting is open to relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and national organizations involved in producing or using climate change related data.

The conclusions of the meeting will provide input to a report that will be prepared by the Task Force. The report will give concrete recommendations and identify priorities for national statistical offices in support of developing climate change related statistics. It will also improve the awareness of data needs of the greenhouse gas emission inventories. The preliminary findings will be consulted widely before the final report is presented to the Conference of European Statisticians, tentatively in June 2014.

II.   AGENDA AND EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE SUBSTANTIVE TOPICS

The following substantive topics will be discussed:

A.   WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED STATISTICS?
<u>Session organizer</u>: Julie Hass, Statistics Norway

Statistics necessary for the understanding of the causes and impacts of climate change cut across several statistical domains, covering social, economic and environmental aspects. Analyzing the driving forces and impact of climate change requires linking the information on the state of climate and its direct impact, produced outside the national statistical systems, with existing statistical data on the population, human and economic activities and the environment.

The term "climate change related statistics" refers to those statistics that measure the phenomena related to climate change, such as its impact, potential causes, cost of mitigation and adaptation etc. The term is used to distinguish from "climate data" that measures climate directly, for example temperature and precipitation, which is usually not the responsibility of national statistical offices.

The session will discuss how to define the scope of climate change related statistics based on an outline prepared by the Task Force. **We would welcome papers on how climate change related statistics may be defined or what kind of climate change related indicators are produced**.

B.   USER NEEDS AND DATA GAPS
<u>Session organizer</u>: Robert Smith, Statistics Canada

This session will discuss the need for climate change related statistics in both policy and scientific domains to determine where the national statistical offices can meet the most pressing needs. The discussion of different producers and users of data aims to identify some of the most important knowledge and data gaps that may hinder effective mitigation and adaptation measures. **We would like to invite papers and views on the most urgent data needs and data gaps that could be filled by national statistical systems.**

C.   GOOD PRACTICES OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES IN PROVIDING CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED DATA
<u>Session organizer</u>: John Mackintosh, United Kingdom, Department of Energy and Climate Change

The international statistical community is improving the information basis for climate change analysis and policy making but the availability of data from statistical offices could be improved further. This session will, therefore, share good practices of national statistical

offices in climate change related statistics, including greenhouse gas emission inventories, to promote further progress in countries.

National statistical offices are involved in greenhouse gas emission inventories as source data providers. **We would welcome case studies describing the work of national statistical offices related to emission inventories; for example, in inter-agency cooperation, quality assurance methods and improvement of source data.**

Furthermore, the statistical offices possess a large amount of socio-economic data, which could provide important information if linked with climate observation data. **We are interested in papers sharing good practices of national statistical offices in providing statistics related to climate change and communication of climate issues to the public.**

D.   KEY DIRECTIONS FOR FUTURE

<u>Session organizer</u>: Velina Pendolovska, European Commission Directorate-General for Climate Action

This session will consider what statistical offices could do to better respond to the pressing need for climate change related statistics and to improve their contribution to climate change analysis and informed decision-making. Attention could be focused, for example, on making existing data more easily available. There is also work to be done to ensure that statistical standards and methodologies are in place to improve the availability and international comparability of statistics on issues related to climate change. To this end, **we would appreciate receiving papers describing innovative, new developments in statistical offices and key directions for future improvement of statistical offices' contributions in this area.**