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

Geneva, Switzerland, 29-30 August 2024

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The UNECE Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics will take place from 29 to 30 August 2024 in Geneva, as an in-person meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian will be provided. Updates and all documents related to the meeting will be posted on the meeting website: https://unece.org/statistics/events/EFCCRS2024

All countries and organizations are invited to offer contributions related to the topics proposed in section IV in the form of in-person presentations, working papers or case studies. **If you are interested in contributing, please fill** this form **by 7 June.**

I.   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 experiences, discussing concepts and measurement issues, and identifying areas for future work. The Expert Fora provide a link between producers and users of climate information and follow up on the *Conference of European Statisticians' Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics*, endorsed in 2014 by more than 60 countries and international organizations. The Expert Fora are organized by the UNECE Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics (SGCC), currently chaired by Canada.

II.   Objectives of the Expert Forum

The 2024 Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics will aim to:

- Facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience in developing new climate change-related statistics and improving the usefulness of the existing data
- Provide a platform for dialogue between producers and users of climate change-related statistics, e.g., on the strengthening of underlying data and on the role and responsibilities of the statistical community in this domain
- Support implementation of the *CES Guidance on the role of national statistical offices in achieving national climate objectives* (planned to be endorsed in June 2024) and the *CES Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics Using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting* (2020)
- Show good practices and enable peer-to-peer learning in producing, disseminating and using climate change-related statistics
- Identify areas of climate change-related statistics that require further methodological work or where practical guidance would need to be developed

III. Call for contributions

All countries and organizations are invited to offer contributions related to the topics proposed in section IV in the form of in-person presentations, working papers or case studies. Presentations may be accompanied by a written paper or case study, but it is not mandatory. You may also offer a written contribution only without a presentation.

If you are interested in contributing a working paper, an in-person presentation, or a case study, please fill this form by 7 June, describing the planned content of your contribution and explaining how it relates to the topics described in this note (you may indicate more than one topic). The organizers will contact the authors and inform them whether their contribution has been selected.

If you are preparing a paper or a case study, the full text should be submitted by 7 August. Presentation slides should be submitted by 21 August.

The session organizers will select the contributions to be presented at the Expert Forum, prioritizing contributions that:

- Include the perspectives of both producers and users of climate change-related statistics (e.g., demonstrate the use of climate change-related statistics in policymaking; discuss data gaps and potential solutions; the role of national statistical offices (NSOs) in this domain from a data stewardship perspective, etc.)
- Share lessons learned, good practices, and innovative approaches to provide climate change-related statistics or indicators
- Identify issues for further international work.

The written papers/case studies should be maximum 6 pages long and submitted in English. Figures or tables should be accompanied by titles, and all abbreviations should be explained when used for the first time. References can be included in footnotes or at the end.

Papers or case studies should be prepared using the template available on the Expert Forum webpage. Case studies on informing climate change adaptation can be submitted using the adaptation case study template.

IV. Proposed topics of contributions

The following topics are proposed for discussion at the 2024 Expert Forum:

1. **Reporting under the Paris Agreement**
2. **Informing climate change mitigation policies**
3. **Informing climate change adaptation policies**
4. **Cross-cutting issues in energy, agriculture, transport and other sectors**
5. **Informing just transition**
6. **Measuring climate finance and financial aspects of climate action**
7. **Institutional arrangements – coordination, governance and role of NSOs**

A contribution may fit under more than one topic as topics are interconnected and not mutually exclusive. Contributions beyond the scope of proposed topics may also be submitted with additional explanation - the Steering Group may still consider such contributions if scheduling permits. **The sessions of the Expert Forum will be confirmed based on the received contributions.**

Each session will aim to discuss best practices, existing challenges, and recommendations on how to improve statistics and data for climate policy and analysis in a particular area.

1. Reporting under the Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is built around individual climate plans and targets from all governments called nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Tracking and reporting national progress towards the implementation of these plans will be conducted under the enhanced transparency framework (ETF). This includes the compilation of greenhouse gas emissions inventories. The ETF will serve as the primary vehicle for the governments to demonstrate progress in the implementation and achievement of their NDCs.

The ETF is applicable to all Parties and builds upon the existing measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system under the Convention. For developing country Parties, this represents a substantial increase in the level of detail in the reporting. The establishment of robust and sustainable institutional arrangements is a key enabling factor, including building capacity and expertise within a country.

The role of NSOs in the ETF may differ by country. At minimum, NSOs are typically responsible for producing a significant share of the input data to greenhouse gas inventories, such as statistics on energy, agriculture, waste, and industrial production. NSOs can also be formally involved in the reporting, e.g., in quality assurance. A less mature role of NSOs is to identify the ETF data needs and to provide tailor-made data to track the progress of mitigation and adaptation policy actions, as mentioned in the NDCs. In any case, NSOs should be actively involved to understand how data are used, discuss quality issues, and improve data collections if needed.

Under this topic, we are looking for contributions presenting:

- Process of establishing sustainable institutional and data arrangements for the ETF reporting, including roles and responsibilities of NSOs and other actors and mechanisms for capacity development
- Data use, needs and gaps for the biennial transparency reports (BTRs) and NDCs
- Examples of lessons learnt, benefits and issues related to the multi-stakeholder collaboration for the reporting.

2. Informing climate change mitigation policies

National governments are putting in place increasingly ambitious climate change mitigation policies to deliver on their pledges and contribute to the achievement of the global temperature goal. High-quality data can help governments design evidence-based policies and monitor their success.

Under this topic, we are looking for contributions describing statistical activities or data needs related to greenhouse gas emissions, their drivers and mitigation actions, including but not limited to:

- Measuring progress towards climate goals and NDC tracking
- Data needs to monitor the clean energy transition and other transitions envisaged in NDCs
- Estimating emissions from biomass
- Different approaches to measuring emissions, including footprint-type indicators.

The contributions may describe developing or improving statistics and indicators, identifying data needs and outstanding gaps, collaborations between statistical producers and policymakers, or coordination with other data producers.

3. Informing climate change adaptation policies

Climate change adaptation is complex and highly context-specific, as the hazards, vulnerability and exposure vary greatly depending on the country, region, geographic characteristics of the territory, population characteristics, etc. Ensuring the availability of relevant statistics on these aspects is vital for evidence-based adaptation policies and plans but requires close collaboration between producers and users of the information to prioritize according to national circumstances.

COP 28 in Dubai adopted the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience. The Framework includes quantitative and time-bound targets around the adaptation cycle and will require further elaboration of indicators for the thematic targets around water, food, health, ecosystems, infrastructure, poverty and cultural heritage through a 2-year UAE – Belém work programme (2023 to 2025). New indicators will rely to the extent possible on existing data and indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Sendai Framework. However, gaps may also be identified, and new indicators can be developed. The involvement of NSOs in this process would ensure the feasibility of producing indicators nationally, allow for leveraging existing data collections and help NSOs prioritize the work on statistics related to adaptation.

Under this topic, we are looking for contributions showcasing, among others:

- Measuring progress towards climate goals, in particular related to the thematic targets: water, food, health, ecosystems, infrastructure, poverty and cultural heritage.
- Measuring climate-related risks, vulnerability, hazards, impacts and adaptation.
- Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation plans.
- Improving the availability of geospatially enabled data relevant to climate change adaptation.

Contributions highlighting data gaps that can be addressed by official statistics and/or measurement issues in all the above-mentioned areas are also welcome**.**

4. Informing just transition

Achieving climate goals requires an economic transformation of unprecedented speed and scale. The "just transition" approach aims to ensure that this transformation happens in a fair and inclusive way, maximizing the socioeconomic opportunities of climate action, minimizing the associated challenges, and leaving no one behind.

Plans and policies aiming to achieve a just transition should require granular data allowing the policymakers to identify vulnerable population groups and socioeconomic issues related to climate policies. Examples of such issues could include people from marginalized groups who cannot move to a low-carbon economy for financial reasons, changes in the structure of the labour market due to the disappearance of jobs in fossil fuel industries or measuring energy poverty.

Under this topic, we are looking for examples of existing or needed statistical products or activities which can be useful for formulating and monitoring just transition policies through, e.g.:

- Integrating social and/or economic statistics with environmental statistics
- Measuring the intersectional vulnerability of the population in the context of climate change
- Improving data granularity
- Facilitating the linkage of relevant data across domains and sources.

5. Cross-cutting issues in energy, agriculture, transport and other sectors

Achieving climate goals requires a successful energy transition and a number of transitions in various sectors, such as agriculture, transport and the built environment. Monitoring and informing these transitions requires measurement of their various aspects and enablers on many levels.

For example, the energy sector accounts for about three-quarters of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions globally; hence, addressing the clean energy transition is central to achieving climate mitigation objectives. Accurate, timely and transparent energy statistics form the basis for energy and climate policy planning and reliable data are needed more than ever to track the progress of energy transitions. This not only includes transitions in the energy supply but also for the energy use in sectors like transport (electrification and biofuels) and the use of energy in the built environment.

Another key sector relevant in the context of both mitigation and adaptation is agriculture. Mitigations measures taken in agriculture include optimizing livestock diets, improving manure management systems

and on-farm energy efficiency, and reducing the nitrogen quantity applied to soils, but also reducing livestock numbers, encouraging dietary change (fewer animal products), and supporting precision farming and sustainable soil management or increasing carbon sequestration by applying specific agricultural practices. Implementing circular economy actions across the full agri-food value chain can further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The global transport sector has the highest reliance on fossil fuels of any sector and, in 2021, it accounted for almost one-fourth of global GHG emissions, with road transport being the major contributor. At the same time, the world faces a projected increase in both passenger transport demand and freight. Achieving reductions in emissions while maintaining high transport accessibility will require a mix of policies and measures, involving regulations, incentives, investment in infrastructure and a modal shift from the road towards less emitting modes of transport.

Under this topic, we are looking for contributions presenting:

- Producing and using statistics relevant to climate change-related transition in any of the above-mentioned sectors
- Examples of collaboration and cooperation between NSOs, other data producers, and data users
- Examples of innovative statistical products or activities or adjusting existing collections to meet the information needs of the above-mentioned transitions.

6. Measuring climate finance and financial aspects of climate action

Climate change introduces transition and financial stability risks in the global economy. High-quality data are needed for the public and the private sector to efficiently price and manage these risks. At the same time, countries need to make informed decisions on investment in climate action and monitor their effects.

Under this topic, we are looking for contributions:

- Presenting statistical developments related to measuring climate finance
- Addressing climate-related data needs of national and international financial institutions
- Identifying outstanding data gaps in this area
- Describing how national statistical offices can contribute to that area, e.g. through forward-looking indicators based on sentiment surveys, more detailed statistics on the capital assets of fuel-dependent sectors or exploring data coming from corporate sustainability reporting.

7. Institutional arrangements – coordination, governance and role of NSOs

There are many institutions producing statistics and data relevant for climate change policymaking – both within and outside of national statistical systems. Even within the NSOs, the production of all relevant statistics and indicators may require cooperation among various domain experts and using innovative methods and new data sources. Establishing sustainable institutional arrangements is key to producing relevant climate change-related statistics for policymaking and informing the public.

The specificity of this domain, with many relevant institutions with established mandates and multiple data sources, makes it particularly suitable for being approached from a data stewardship perspective, meaning "*ensuring the ethical and responsible creation, collection, management, use and reuse of data so that they are used for public good and benefit the full community of data users*". Through their expertise in data management, processing, and safeguarding, NSOs can play a vital role in making sure that administrative data available at various government agencies are treated as data assets and that their value for informing climate action is captured.

Under this topic, we are looking for contributions showcasing:

- The roles and responsibilities of key actors in producing and using climate change-related statistics, e.g., the role of NSOs from a data stewardship perspective

- Mechanisms for governance, coordination and cooperation
- Successes, challenges and lessons learnt at local, national, regional and international levels.

V. Further information

All documents related to the meeting and links to additional resources will be available on the meeting website.

VI. Contact

Ms. Malgorzata Cwiek
Statistician
Environment and Multi-domain Statistics Section
UNECE Statistical Division
E-mail: cwiek@un.org

* * * * *