

Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics (EG-ECCS): background, activities and priorities



**21st Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on
Environmental-Economic Accounting**

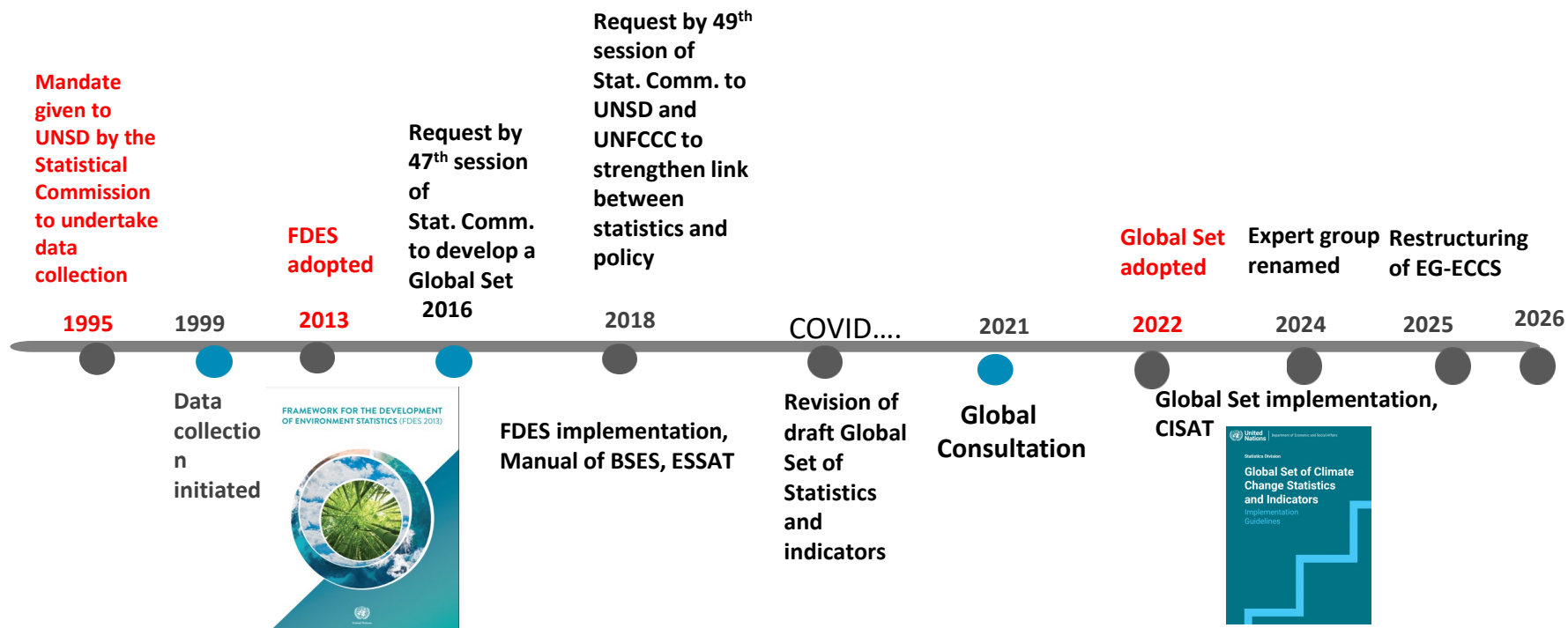
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Outline

- EG-ECCS overview: updated ToR, key functions, structure
- Programme delivery: FDES 2013 and the Global Set, data collection, implementation tools and capacity-development support
- Priority current workstreams: censuses/surveys, climate & health, and climate–gender linkages
- UN Statistical Commission: latest decisions and recommendations
- Looking ahead: are there areas where closer collaboration/coordination between the two groups would be beneficial?

Background and process:

Collaboration between UNSD, UNFCCC and the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics (EG-ECCS)



Key objective of UNSD's programme on environment and climate change statistics is to support countries with less developed statistical systems to start and advance work in this area, special attention to SIDS and other developing countries, guidance tailored to their needs.

Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics (EG-ECCS)

- The Expert Group has met annually since 2014, started with focus on the implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES), international data collection on water and waste (UNSD/UNEP; OECD/Eurostat joint questionnaires) and gradually expanded to cover equally climate change.
- Following its expansion endorsed by the Commission with its [Decision 56/124 \(2025\)](#) the group was restructured with subgroups on climate change questions for censuses and surveys, integrating climate and health statistics and work processes supporting climate and gender, big data, coordination and capacity development activities.
- Closely related is the [Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics](#) which oversees the data collection processes (water and waste)
- More info here: [UNSD — Environment Statistics](#)

Updated ToR of the EG-ECCS

1. Mandates and preamble

- Programme reflects Statistical Commission mandates on methodology, data collection, capacity development and coordination.
- Scope now covers both environment and climate change statistics, building on FDES 2013 and the Global Set.

2. Objectives

- Contribute to standardization of methods, classifications and definitions.
- Support data collection, processing and dissemination, including water/waste, environment-related SDG indicators and climate data.
- Provide technical cooperation, training and capacity development.
- Coordinate and harmonize data collection, statistics and indicator programmes, plus implementation support.

3. Membership, composition and chairs

- Currently chaired by Tanzania and Suriname, with 39 countries and 27 agencies; participation reflects regional balance and technical expertise.

4. Reporting

- Work is reflected in the Secretary-General's report to the Statistical Commission under the joint agenda item.

5. Secretariat

- UNSD serves as secretariat, coordinating meetings, the work programme and subgroup processes.

Key Decisions of the Statistical Commission:

- **Twenty-eighth session (1995), para. 77**, mandated UNSD to start collecting environmental data from national statistical offices, establishing the basis for the environment statistics data collection programme:
https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_28/documents/statcom-1995-28th-report-E.pdf
- **Decision 44/105 (2013)**, the Commission endorsed the revised FDES 2013 as the framework for strengthening environment statistics programmes in countries:
https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_44/documents/statcom-2013-44th-report-E.pdf
- **Decision 53/116 (2022)**, the Global Set was adopted at the 53rd session of the Statistical Commission: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/2022-41-FinalReport-E.pdf>
- **Decision 56/124 (2025)** the Commission supported the restructuring of the expert group based on its expanded scope of work covering environment and climate change statistics:
https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_56/documents/2025-37-FinalReport-EE.pdf.

Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013)

1. The UN Statistical Commission endorsed the revised **FDES 2013** at its 44th session in 2013 as the framework for strengthening environment statistics programmes in countries.

2. The objectives are:

- Help international and regional institutions to support strengthening capacity in countries to develop environment statistics
- Enhance comparability and availability of environment statistics using a common framework
- Better inform policy making decisions

3. Implementation supports tools:

- [Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool \(ESSAT\)](#)
- [Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics](#)
- [SDG indicators + Basic Set \(FDES\) matrix](#)



Download FDES 2013 at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/fdes.cshtml> in English, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Russian and French.

Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators

1. The Global Set was adopted at the 53rd session of the Statistical Commission ([Decision 53/116 \(2022\)](#))
2. The Global Set contains 158 indicators (and 190 statistics) of which 18 indicators are based on SEEA, complemented by about 30 statistics.
3. It links policy targets (IPCC areas: drivers, impacts, vulnerability, mitigation, adaptation) and statistical indicator frameworks across: Paris Agreement; Sendai Framework; Sustainable Development Goals.
4. The aim is to contribute to:
 - independent national policies evaluation
 - comparable reporting to UNFCCC
 - advance of climate change and environment statistics
4. The Global Set helps to define the scope and content of:
 - national programmes, countries use the Global Set to develop their own sets
 - regional approaches, indicators were adapted/selected by ECLAC and ESCWA
 - further methodology development
6. Implementation supports tools:
 - [Climate Change Statistics and Indicators Self-Assessment Tool \(CISAT\)](#) **new**, with updates on climate and health
 - [Implementation Guidelines](#)

Arabic

English

Chinese

French

Russian

Spanish

Data collection (water and waste)

UNSD is currently working on its 13th data collection on water and waste statistics since 1999 (usually biennial) from about 160 UN member states. Mandated by the UNSC (**Para. 77 (1995)**); and reinforced by the UNSC (**Chapter IV, Para. 2 (2003) and para. 56/124 (2025)**). https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_28/documents/statcom-1995-28th-report-E.pdf

https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_34/documents/statcom-2003-34th-report-E.pdf

https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_56/documents/2025-37-Report-E.pdf

Data provided by member states help monitor SDG indicators (goals 6, 11 and 12 on water and waste), and inform for circular economy and other policy purposes.

Section: WATER

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Section: WASTE

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Subgroup on climate change questions for censuses and surveys

- Key objective to develop a set of environment and climate change questions for censuses and surveys.
- Mandate: strengthen national data collection and help countries produce statistics and indicators needed for the Global Set and international reporting.
- Work completed: Terms of Reference and chair/co-chair in place (by the former chair of the EG-ECCS and Uganda); membership from 16 countries and 5 agencies; regular meetings held in 2024, 2025 and ongoing in 2026.
- Technical work: mapping of existing census and survey questions to Global Set indicators, complemented by a consultant review of national examples, findings and recommendations, all published in a repository of questions here: [BG-3i-Background Report Climate questions.pdf](#)
- Next step: refine a repository of questions and best practices to guide national implementation and future data collection support; recommend a short set for censuses and longer set for surveys

Subgroup on climate and health statistics

- Priority methodology workstream under the restructured EG-ECCS, supported by a dedicated subgroup led by UK-ONS and WHO with UNSD as secretariat.
- Improvements to the Global Set health-related indicators and metadata were adopted, drawing on the SOSCHI project and country testing needs.
- Proposed updates focus on Global Set indicators 44–46: climate-related diseases; heat- and cold-related illness or excess mortality; and climate-induced air pollution.
- Subgroup work emphasizes testing methods with national data, assessing data availability and capacity constraints, and ensuring global relevance beyond early country experience.
- Future work centers on implementation tools, capacity-building and alignment with and further addressing indicators from WHO (premature births), Lancet Countdown, the Global Goal on Adaptation and ILO-related work.

Contributions to climate and gender statistics

- Collaboration continued with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), rather than through a fully separate workstream.
- A guidance note on mainstreaming gender into climate change statistics was prepared by the IAEG-GS with inputs from EG-ECCS under Colombia/DANE leadership.
- The note frames climate statistics through gender and intersectional lenses across drivers, impacts, vulnerability, mitigation and adaptation, with country examples and statistical considerations.
- Key activities are now taking shape under a dedicated DA17 project entitled Measuring Climate Change with a gender dimension for better adaptation and mitigation policies, led by UNEP, co-implemented with UNSD
- Next steps: use the guidance to close data gaps, strengthen sex-disaggregated and linked data, introduce new indicators on climate and gender in the Global Set and inform future EG-ECCS work on climate impacts on women and men.

Capacity development and implementation support for environment and climate change statistics

- Capacity development is a core need for implementing the Global Set and FDES and for improving national collection and compilation.
- Latest Decision 56/124 of the Commission urged countries to strengthen national environment and climate change data collection for policy decisions and international reporting, including the UNSD/UNEP questionnaire.
- Based on many expressions of interest, EG-ECCS work prioritized implementation support: FDES, the Global Set, support tools, communications, coordination and lessons learned. Dedicated (online) discussion sessions take place twice a year.
- A survey on the implementation of the FDES and the Global Set has been piloted within the EG-ECCS, with the key objective to ensure that the needs of less developed statistical systems are well captured
- Next steps: refine the survey and support tools, share country and agency experiences, and focus capacity-building on practical implementation challenges.

Latest Decisions of the Statistical Commission:

Decision 57/109 (2026), the Commission:

- approved the work programme implemented in collaboration with the restructured Expert Group ...
- endorsed improvements to the Global Set indicators for climate and health and related metadata
- Urged countries to strengthen their data collection in environment and climate change statistics
- Requested the Expert Group to further revise the Global Set indicators and to assess the need to also revise the FDES, taking into account updates in statistical methodologies, especially on environmental-economic accounting, biodiversity and disasters, among others:
https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_57/documents/2026-35-FinalReport-E.pdf

Looking ahead

- Strengthen the complementarity between the SEEA work programme and the environment and climate change statistics programme.
- The ongoing SEEA revision should include concepts and methods from the FDES and Global Set.
- Consider joint capacity-development activities (workshops, funding), using existing tools (implementation surveys, CISAT/ESSAT).

Key questions to the Committee:

- 1.Can the two expert communities initiate coordination of certain activities?**
- 2.What steps will bring synergies in our outcomes?**
- 3.Are there areas where closer collaboration between the two groups would be beneficial?**

Thank you for your attention!

For more information please contact the Environment Statistics and Accounts Section at the United Nations Statistics Division:

E-mail: envstats@un.org

Website: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/>

