

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

Geneva, Switzerland, 29-30 September 2022 (to be confirmed)

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The UNECE Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics is planned to take place from 29 to 30 September 2022 in Geneva. The concept note and invitations will be sent out in spring 2022. The modality and languages of the meeting will be confirmed closer to the dates depending on the Covid-19 situation. If the meeting is organized in person, a remote connection will be provided for those who cannot travel.

The meeting is planned to be held in English and Russian with simultaneous interpretation. Updates and all documents related to the meeting will be posted on the meeting website:
<https://unece.org/statistics/events/EFCCRS2022>

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 experience, 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 the Netherlands.

II. Objectives of the Expert Forum

The 2022 Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics will aim to:

- Facilitate sharing of knowledge and experience on developing new change-related statistics and improving the usefulness of the existing data.
- Support implementation of the [CES Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics \(2014\)](#) and the [CES Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics Using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting \(2020\)](#).
- Inform about related developments, such as data needs related to the Paris Agreement, the SDG indicators and the UNSD Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators.
- Show good practices in producing, disseminating and using climate change-related statistics.
- Identify priorities for future work.

III. Call for contributions

All countries and organizations are invited to contribute their experience on the topics of the meeting (see section IV) in the form of presentations and/or papers.

If you are interested in contributing a paper or presentation, **please send a short abstract to the secretariat (cwiek@un.org) by 15 April**, describing the planned content of your contribution.

Full papers and case studies (see IV.2) should be submitted by **19 August**. Presentation slides should be submitted by **16 September**.

All received contributions will be published on the Expert Forum website and on the [UNECE wiki of good practices in climate change-related statistics](#)¹. If more contributions are received than can be presented at the meeting, the session organizers will select the contributions to be presented, and the remaining papers will be summarized by the session chair.

The papers should be as concise as possible, include lessons learned helpful for other countries and highlight any issues that need further discussion or international work. 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 should be prepared using the [template](#) available on the Expert Forum webpage. Case studies for the session on measuring climate change vulnerability and adaptation should be submitted using the [case study template](#).

IV. Topics of the Expert Forum

The Expert Forum is planned to include the following sessions:

- 1. Setting the scene**
- 2. Progress and challenges in measuring climate change vulnerability and adaptation**
- 3. Innovative solutions to data gaps in climate change-related statistics**
- 4. Improving timeliness, frequency and granularity of GHG emission estimates**

The exact formulation of session topics may be adjusted depending on the received contributions.

1. Setting the scene

The main objective of the session will be to provide a common foundation for the rest of the Expert Forum. The session will be an opportunity to:

- Take stock of the recent work of the Steering Group
- Share information about recent developments at the global level, including the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development
- Share information about the new UNECE Task Force on the role of NSOs in achieving national climate objectives

¹ Contributions to the [UNECE wiki of good practices in climate change-related statistics](#) are also welcome throughout the year. To submit a good practice example, please send to the secretariat (cwiek@un.org) a brief description of: (1) accomplished work; (2) achieved results; (3) main difficulties and (4) hyperlink to further information.

- Share information about other relevant initiatives related to the production, dissemination and use of climate change-related statistics, including institutional aspects.

2. Progress and challenges in measuring climate change vulnerability and adaptation

This session will follow up on the related sessions at the 2020 and 2021 Expert Fora. The presentations and conclusions from the previous meetings are available on the meeting websites in English and Russian: [2020 Expert Forum](#) and [2021 Expert Forum](#).

Understanding climate change vulnerability and resilience and planning adaptation to climate change is an increasingly important component of climate change response. However, their measurement still poses significant challenges. Vulnerability, exposure, risk appetite and adaptation actions vary between and within countries and regions and over time, and are interconnected. The information needs are highly context-specific, and it seems impossible to define a fully harmonized, internationally agreed set of statistics and indicators.

In August 2020, the Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics conducted [a survey](#) to determine what NSOs do in this area. Many countries reported that they undertake some statistical activities related to climate change adaptation, such as producing statistics, linking and disseminating data from other producers or supporting monitoring of national adaptation plans. The Expert Forum concluded that further work should include sharing best practices, starting with available relevant indicators, analysing interlinkages, clustering relevant thematic areas and creating taxonomies.

The session will:

- Inform about the developments related to the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation established at COP26 in Glasgow.
- Share and discuss practical examples of climate change adaptation, vulnerability and resilience statistics and indicators used in countries.
- Share experience of other activities related to providing data on climate change adaptation, vulnerability and resilience, e.g., linking and disseminating data from other producers, supporting monitoring of national adaptation plans, providing data for risk maps, including nature-based solution strategies.
- Share knowledge and good practices of statistical, policy and research communities working on climate change adaptation, vulnerability, resilience, and hazardous events and disasters.
- Discuss what is needed to accelerate progress in this area.

For this session, particularly encouraged are submissions in the form of **structured case studies** using the [case study template](#) developed by the Steering Group. The first case study prepared by the Netherlands can be found [here](#).

3. Innovative solutions to data gaps in climate change-related statistics

The session will discuss innovative solutions to addressing gaps in data needed for producing climate change indicators, including strengthening primary data collection, using modern data sources and emerging technologies.

Reliable indicators require sound data, and many areas within the climate change statistics domain would benefit from strengthened data collection. New data sources, such as administrative data, Earth observations or electric meters, can complement traditional methods, such as surveys, to increase the

efficiency of data production or enable producing new statistics and indicators. The session could discuss:

- What are the most common and relevant data gaps? In which areas of climate change-related statistics the need to strengthen data collection is the most urgent, and what can be done?
- Which administrative and new data sources can already be used for regular production of climate change-related statistics, and which have potential that is not yet tapped into? E.g., Earth observations, sensor data, water/gas/electricity meter data, building energy ratings, vehicle test data (odometer readings), citizen-generated data?
- What are the enablers and obstacles in using administrative and non-conventional data sources? How can innovative approaches be brought into the regular production of official data? What are the success stories and lessons learned? What good practices can be replicated?
- Any other examples of bridging data gaps using conventional and non-conventional data sources for climate change-related indicators.

4. Improving timeliness, frequency and granularity of GHG emission estimates

There is a scientific consensus that climate change is an existential threat for humanity, and the time to reverse the trend in GHG emissions is limited. The emissions need to peak very soon, and related policy questions are urgent and specific, concerning critical sectors that need to be decarbonized. However, climate change-related statistics are often released at best on an annual basis with a time lag of one year or more. Therefore, improving timeliness, frequency and granularity of estimates have been considered essential avenues of strengthening climate change-related statistics and a critical step to make them more useful for decision making and public information.

Some countries have been already producing quarterly emissions estimates for many years, while others do not see it as a priority. International organizations (Eurostat, OECD and IMF) are beginning to release quarterly statistics for their member states. The session will explore various initiatives and approaches to improve the timeliness, frequency, and granularity of GHG emission estimates and discuss:

- What has been the rationale for producing infra-annual or subnational GHG emission estimates in the countries/international organizations that produce them on a regular basis? What has been the impact? What are the pros and cons?
- What are new initiatives and approaches in this area?
- Is there a need for all countries to produce their national estimate of GHG emissions on an infra-annual basis? Is there a need to produce infra-annual emissions based on both SEEA and IPCC? When are subnational estimates needed?
- Besides infra-annual GHG emissions data, what other innovative approaches are being used/should be used to improve the granularity, frequency and/or timeliness of climate change-related statistics? For example, improvements to underlying energy surveys.

V. Further information

The concept note and invitations will be sent out in spring 2022. The modality and languages of the meeting will be confirmed closer to the dates depending on the Covid-19 situation. If the meeting is organized in person, a remote connection will also be provided. All documents, including the

concept note, timetable, will be available at the meeting website:

<https://unece.org/statistics/events/EFCCRS2022>

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