



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

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EGES/1

26 March 2014

First Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics

New York, 26-28 March 2014

AGENDA

Venue: DC2 Building 4th Floor Conference Room 461

(Two UN Plaza, East 44th Street between First and Second Avenues)

Wednesday, 26 March

9:30 – 10:15 am

Opening: Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Acting Director, UNSD
Ms. Iva Ritschelova (Chair)

Background and objectives of the meeting (Ms. Eszter Horvath, UNSD)

Introductions

Adoption of Agenda

10:15 – 12:30

Session 1 Methodological guidance manual for the FDES Core Set of Environment Statistics (FDES Tool 1)

The work programme for the implementation of the FDES (approved by the UN Statistical Commission in 2013) includes the development of a methodological manual to support the collection and compilation of the Core Set of Environment Statistics. The Expert Group is expected to discuss and agree on the outline, structure and contents of the manual and a work programme for its development.

- (i) The Manual on the Core Set of Environment Statistics:
- Concept note
 - Draft outline
 - Draft examples of the methodology sheets: structure, fields and contents

Presentation by UNSD
Presentation by Eurostat

- (ii) National experiences with the use and application of the FDES 2013 relevant to the development of the Manual

Mauritius, Nigeria, Qatar, UAE

General discussion

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 17:30

Session 1 (continued)

- (iii) Good practices – Czech example (*Czech Republic*)
- (iv) The Basic/Core Sets of Environment Statistics and selected international/regional indicator initiatives (*UNSD*)
- (v) Discussion of the proposed outline of the Manual and the structure, fields and contents of the methodology sheets
- (vi) Discussion of timetable, thematic clusters, and distribution of work for 2014, experts' commitment for contribution
- (vii) Conclusions

17:45 – 19:00 Reception (DC2 14th Floor common area)

Thursday, 27 March

9:30 – 13:15

Session 2: The Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (FDES Tool 2)

The work programme for the implementation of the FDES (approved by the UN Statistical Commission in 2013) includes the development of a tool for use by/in countries to assess and diagnose the state of environment statistics as a first step in the application of the FDES. An Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool has been developed by UNSD based on the questionnaires used in the pilot exercise on the Core Set of Environment

Statistics in September 2012. The two questionnaires assessed country priorities and data availability at the statistical topic and variable level. A third questionnaire is planned to cover the institutional aspects. The Expert Group is expected to discuss the ESSAT in general and the structure, fields, contents and layout of the questionnaires in particular.

- (i) Presentation of the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT):
 - The objective of the ESSAT and its relation to the pilot exercise on the Core Set of Environment Statistics
 - The ESSAT Questionnaires I and II
 - Draft contents of the planned ESSAT Questionnaire III (institutional aspects)

Presentations by UNSD
- (ii) National experiences from the use of the questionnaires in the pilot exercise on the Core Set of Environment Statistics and from subsequent uses of the ESSAT in countries and regional workshops relevant to the improvement of the ESSAT
 - Botswana, Brazil, Jamaica, Philippines*
- (iii) Discussion
- (iv) Conclusions

13:15 – 14:35 Lunch

14:35 – 18:00

Session 3: Guidelines for setting up/strengthening an environment statistics programme (FDES Tool 3)

Because of its cross cutting nature, environment statistics need to be produced by an organized sustained effort among different national partners. This document will describe the key considerations and steps when setting up and/or strengthening environment statistics programmes at the national level and the most important consideration of the institutional setup and the methods of organizing collaborative working relationship among national institutions and between these and international agencies.

- (i) Proposed outline of the document, its scope, structure and contents
 - Presentation by UNSD*

- (ii) National experiences with issues related to the institutional aspects of developing environment statistics programmes relevant for the guidelines

Mexico, India, USA

- (iii) Discussion
- (iv) Conclusions

18:30 - 20:00 **Dinner**

Friday, 28 March

9:30 – 12:30

Session 4: Technical assistance, training and capacity building for the implementation of the FDES 2013 in countries

- (i) Main elements of a training and technical assistance programme
Presentation by UNSD
- (ii) Timetable and distribution of work
- (iii) Pooling resources for training and capacity building
- (iv) Discussion
- (v) Conclusions

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 16:00

Session 5: Work Programme of the EGES for 2014-2015
Any other business

16:00 **Closing of the meeting**