April 11, 2008

Conference on Climate Change and Official Statistics
Oslo, Norway, 14-16 April 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

MONDAY 14 APRIL

Opening: The Conference will be opened by <u>Kristin Halvorsen,</u> Minister of Finance for Norway. There will be short introductory speeches by the sponsoring organizations (<u>Paul Cheung,</u> UNSD; <u>Marie Bohata</u>, Eurostat; and <u>Eric Swanson</u>, World Bank) to outline their objectives for the Conference.

Session I: Setting the scope: Understanding the demand for statistics created by the scientific and policy framework of climate change and the role of official statistics in satisfying this demand.

Speakers will be Professor <u>Mohan Munasinghe</u>, Vice-President of the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), <u>Jacqueline McGlade</u>, Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA), and <u>Alex Manson</u>, Director-General, Strategic Policy Branch and Special Advisor on Climate Change of the Canadian National Ministry of Environment.

Session II: Greenhouse gas emission calculations as part of official statistics. What should be the role of NSO-s in the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions and in informing adaptation and mitigation strategies? Are our statistics adequate?

Statistics underlying the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions encompass and feed primarily on energy statistics, but also on a wide spectrum of statistics on basic activities such as, production of industrial commodities, agriculture, forestry, transport, international trade, land use, waste-water, wastes, etc. Detailed statistics on physical flows in these activities are needed for development of greenhouse gas emission inventories. Emissions (and removals) of greenhouse gases are calculated/estimated on the basis of activity data with the help of emission factors. The development of the methods of calculation/estimation and the establishment of the emission factors is usually outside the scope of official statistics. However, as these calculations require a large amount of official statistics, and <u>the reliability of the calculations depend on the quality of these statistics</u>, the NSO-s should be involved in the process (i) to understand better the special needs for statistics (ii) to make the other players (environmental ministries, research institutes etc) better understand the role of statistical standards, classifications and the advantage of their use.

There will be a presentation from the <u>Astrid Olsson</u> of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change explaining the measurement frameworks that underlie the Kyoto protocol, outlining the expectations for these estimates and the main lessons from the review of existing estimates. This will be followed by presentations from several National Statistical Offices (<u>Kathrine Loe Hansen</u>, Statistics Norway; <u>Riitta Pipatti</u>, Statistics Finland; <u>Santaram Mooloo and Anand Sookun</u> of Mauritius, <u>Konstantin Laykam</u>, Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation) that are involved in the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions. <u>Robert Andres</u>, Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center of the US Department of Energy will give a presentation on their emission calculations at the global, regional and national levels based on national energy statistics. <u>Norihiko Yamano</u> of the OECD will give a presentation on the use of input-output tables for the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions.

The <u>Discussant</u> will highlight the ways official statistics can improve the input data to provide more reliable and consistent GHG emission estimates.

TUESDAY 15 APRIL

Session III: What is the role of official statistics in the measurement of the impacts of, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change?

> *Measurement of the impact of climate change is to a large extent based on sources outside the statistical system. They include meteorological and hydrological information, physical environmental data and data from scientific research. In order to assess the impacts of climate change and the consequent adaptation and mitigation measures, however, this information has to be linked with existing statistics on the population, on human/economic activities and on the environment to enable Impacts on the economy, the society and the natural environment to be assessed. Furthermore, Statistical offices also have a role in the integration of different data sets to provide official statistics, such **<u>as indicator systems</u>**, that might describe the vulnerability or adaptive capacity of a country to impacts of climate change. Impact analysis is usually outside official statistics and belongs to the field of modelling. But official statistics can still play an important role by providing the source data, or developing integrated statistical systems such **<u>as environmental accounts</u>**, as essential inputs into these models.*

This session will start with overview presentations of the impacts on different parts of the world and the associated measurement issues. There will be presentations from <u>Atiq Rahman</u> of the Bangladesh Centre of Advanced Studies (and a recent winner of the Earth Award), and Professor <u>Jose Marengo</u> of Brazil, a prominent IPCC climate scientist.

Subsequent presentations will be structured along the lines of impacts on the natural environment, the society and the economy.

The presentations on environmental impacts will look at three different aspects. <u>Andre Jol</u> of the European Environment Agency will look at ecosystem impacts. <u>Peter Harper</u> of the Australian Bureau of Statistics will describe their water accounts and how they might be used to analyse the demand and supply for water which has become more vulnerable as a result of climate change. The presentation of <u>Sourav Chakrabortty</u>, Central Statistical Office of India,

will describe the role of statistics in the Natural Disaster Recovery System under development. Sonya Ahamed from CIESIN, Columbia University will reflect on different environmental and social impacts.

The next group of papers will be concerned with agriculture, food security and other social aspects. There will be presentations by Eva Laczka of Hungary and Estrella Domingo of the Philippines National Statistical Co-ordination Board. Kseniya Lvovsky from the World Bank will speak about adaptation responses.

Four National Statistical Offices (Rob Smith, Statistics Canada; Walter Radermacher, Germany, Statistisches Bundesamt; Peter van de Ven, Statistics Netherlands; and Brita Bye, Statistics Norway) will speak about their approaches to the assessment of economic impacts.

Discussants will highlight the key statistical measurement issues and how National Statistical Offices can contribute to the measurement of impact of, vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change.

Session IV: Carbon emission trading and other mitigation strategies

Carbon Emission Trading will be one of the more important responses to Climate Change in many countries. What is the role of official statistics in supporting the carbon market? How can Statistical Offices support analysis that examines the implications of carbon trading on the economy and economic growth? How useful are the I-O Tables for such analysis?

How can official statistics contribute to the assessment of costs and benefits of, and tradeoffs between adaptation and mitigation policies, measures and instruments? Can we monitor their effectiveness and impacts?

There will be a presentation from Peter Harper of the Australian Bureau of Statistics which has been given additional resources to improve statistics that are relevant to the carbon emission trading scheme being establishes in Australia. Thomas Olsen, Statistics Denmark will give a presentation on how environmental accounts can be used to analyse the structural impact of introducing emission trading schemes. Kseniya Lvovsky from the World Bank will speak about carbon markets.

Many of the presentations in Sessions II and III will also touch upon mitigation and will be used as input into this session. In addition, Matthias Bruckner from the UN Division of Sustainable Development will speak about monitoring mitigation of climate change as part of monitoring sustainable development. There will be presentations from Xu Huaqing, Head of the Research Centre of Energy, Environment and Climate Change of China and Martin Nesbit of the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom.

Discussants will be chosen to highlight the key statistical measurement issues and how National Statistical Offices can best contribute.

WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL

Session V: How can official statistics support climate change scenario development and modelling and better inform the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report?

> *Statistics used as input include population projections, economic growth and income, energy structure and other driving force statistics. There have been criticisms of some of the statistical assumptions in the scenarios. Perhaps Statistical Offices might be able to assist more in the Fifth Report.*

Dennis Trewin will identify how official statistical community might be best able to assist with this important work. He will reflect on the key issues being considered for the Fifth Assessment Report identified in the opening session by Mohan Munasinghe.

Session VI: Bringing it all together: Classifications, standards and frameworks for climate change statistics. Do indicator systems play a role? Are existing frameworks adequate? Do they need to be amended or extended? What needs to be done to ensure these frameworks can be applied by National Statistical Offices?

> *Statistics to describe and monitor all aspects of climate change are manifold and come from multiple sources. There is a need for frameworks and standards that integrate statistics related to climate change and link official statistics with other information.*

This session is intended to be very interactive with a small number of presentations to stimulate discussion. The discussion will commence with a presentation from Heinrich Bruengger of UN ECE on the possible roles of official statistics in the context of statistical information for climate change. Then the session will be broken up into three parts.

The first part will deal with spatial frameworks and their use in bringing together different types of information and official statistics. It will be highlighted by Gilberto Calvillo of INEGI, Mexico on their spatial framework and how it has been used to analyse the impacts or possible impacts of events relevant to climate change. Sonya Ahamed from CIESIN/Columbia University will make reference to their spatial information system.

The second part will deal with indicator systems and their use in bringing together different aspects of climate change. The Matthias Bruckner of the UN Division of Sustainable Development will give a presentation on their indicator systems and their relevance to climate change statistics. There will also be a presentation from Stephen Hall of the United Kingdom Department of the Environment on their indicator system.

The third part will deal with the implications for classifications, frameworks and standards. Alessandra Alfieri of UNSD will give a presentation on the System of Integrated Environmental-Economic Accounts and how it might be used to support analysis of climate change. In her presentation Viveka Palm of Statistics Sweden will highlight the implications for sectoral statistics. Other relevant statistical frameworks such as the Oslo Manual will also be considered at this part of the Conference.

Discussants will be chosen to highlight the advantages and disadvantages of the different approaches and how can they be used for different purposes.

Session VII: Conclusions and recommendations: Agenda for action

This session will be moderated by Walter Radermacher, President of the Federal Statistics Office of Germany. A draft agenda for action will be presented by Paul Cheung, Director of the UN Statistics Division as a focus for discussion. The output of this discussion is expected to be a recommended roadmap for the development of official climate change statistics both at the national and the international level, to be discussed at the 2009 session of the UN Statistical Commission.