

Climate change statistics



Fourth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment
Statistics

(Prague, Czechia, 3-5 May 2017)



UNSD Past Activities

- At the Statistical Commission in 2009 a programme review on climate change and official statistics carried out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics was presented.
 - Specify how official statistics may be used for climate change measurement and analysis
 - Identify recommendations and actions to mainstream the climate change aspect in official statistics
- UNSD Conferences on climate change and official statistics
 - Oslo, 14-16 April 2008
(http://unstats.un.org/unsd/climate_change/default.htm)
 - Seoul, 11- 12 December 2008
(http://unstats.un.org/unsd/climate_change/Korea/default.htm)
- No follow-up to the programme review was asked by the Statistical Commission in 2009.
- FDES (Chapter 5) has cross-cutting application on climate change.



UNSD Recent Activities

- Member of the UN-ECE Task Force on a set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators.
- Preparation, in collaboration with UN-ECE, of the Secretary-General's report on climate change statistics for the 47th session of the Statistical Commission in 2016.
 - Demand and supply of climate change statistics
 - Statistical work on climate change in the Statistics Division
 - Climate change-related statistics work in the Economic Commission for Europe
 - The way forward



Report of the Secretary-General on Climate Change Statistics to the 47th session of the Statistical Commission


UNSD, in collaboration with UN-ECE, prepared the Report of the Secretary-General on Climate Change Statistics to the 47th session of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2016/15), that was held in New York from 8 to 10 March 2016.

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/climatechange_docs_conf.html

Decision 47/112:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/Report-on-the-47th-session-of-the-statistical-commission-E.pdf>

United Nations E/CN.3/2016/15

 **Economic and Social Council** Distr.: General
18 December 2015
Original: English


Statistical Commission
Forty-seventh session
8-11 March 2016
Item 3 (k) of the provisional agenda*
Items for discussion and decision: climate change statistics



Climate change statistics
Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2015/216 and past practice, the present report was prepared by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in its capacity as secretariat of the Statistical Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). It contains a discussion of climate change statistics and highlights their relevance and the need for them. It builds upon the programme review on climate change and official statistics, undertaken at its fortieth session in 2009, and upon the outcome of two related conferences on climate change and official statistics organized by the Division. The present report elaborates on the demand and supply of climate change statistics, describing the situation around the world, with particular emphasis on the constraints that developing countries face. Responding to increasing demand from countries, the present report summarizes the work of the Division on climate change statistics, including methodological guidance, technical assistance and training, as it pertains to three key statistical domains relevant to climate change, namely, environment statistics, geospatial statistics and environmental-economic accounts. Complementarily, it describes the progress made in the work of ECE on climate change-related statistics and indicators. The Statistical Commission is invited to express its views on the report and discuss the way forward.

* E/CN.3/2016/1.

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47th session of Commission – Summary of decisions

- For countries:
 - Develop and strengthen environment statistics;
 - Use the FDES 2013 to guide the development of climate change statistics and indicators given the close interrelationship between environment statistics and climate change statistics; and
 - Invest adequate resources in the development of climate change statistics, in particular the underlying environment, energy, agriculture and industry statistics, and environmental-economic accounts that relate to the climate-economy interface and the physical flow accounts for greenhouse gas emissions.
- For the international statistical community:
 - Expand its regional, subregional and national capacity-building efforts in climate change statistics; and
 - Consider the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the development of climate change statistics and indicators.



47th session of Commission – Summary of decisions

- For UNSD:
 - Review and consider the set of climate change-related statistics and indicators of the Economic Commission for Europe as a basis for developing a global set of climate change statistics and indicators, applicable to countries at various stages of development;
 - Include climate change statistics on the multi-year programme of the Statistical Commission with greater frequency; and
 - Develop a workplan for submission to the Commission at its forty-eighth session.



UNSD Plans: Climate change statistics



- The UN-ECE set of indicators is still to be submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians plenary session in June 2017 for endorsement.
- Therefore, UNSD is currently in the process of pilot testing the set of climate change-related statistics and indicators in various fora to assess its applicability for the majority of developing countries.
 - Use of the UN-ECE set of indicators as a starting point to see what is feasible.
 - EGES (non-OECD/Eurostat) members were requested to complete survey by 14 April. Deadline extended until 30 June.
 - List of indicators to be modified for the global consultation.



Dedicated page on UNSD website

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/climatechange.html>

The screenshot displays the United Nations Statistics Division website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'UN Home', 'Department of Economic and Social Affairs', 'Economic and Social Development Home', 'About us', 'Contact us', and 'Site Map'. Below this is the United Nations logo and the text 'United Nations Statistics Division'. A secondary navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Databases', 'Publications', 'Methods & Classifications', 'Meetings & Events', 'Newsletters', and a search box labeled '[Site search]' with a 'Go' button.

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a list of links under various categories:

- Environment Statistics**
 - History and current activities
 - Brochure on Environment Statistics
 - FAQ
- Methodology**
 - FDES 2013
 - Basic Set of Environment Statistics
 - Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool
 - Expert Group on Environment Statistics
 - Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics
 - International Recommendations for Water Statistics
 - Concepts and methods in Environment Statistics
 - Glossary
- Data**
 - UNSD environmental indicators
 - Country Snapshots
 - Country Files (Limited access)
 - Questionnaires
- Technical cooperation**
 - COMESA
 - EAC project
 - ECOWAS project
 - ESCWA project
 - CARICOM project
 - Workshops
- Coordination**
 - Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics
- Reports to the Statistical Commission**
- ENVSTATS newsletters**
- Useful links**
 - National data sources
 - International and regional data sources
 - Environmental accounting
- Contact us**

The right column features the 'Climate Change Statistics' section. It begins with a paragraph: 'The UNFCCC has affirmed that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Climate change is a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.' This is followed by another paragraph: 'The world's climate system, including the atmosphere, oceans and cryosphere, is changing and will continue to change at rates unprecedented in recent human history. Findings on the scientific basis for climate change suggest that a number of human-induced alterations of the natural world are involved.' A third paragraph states: 'Climate change affects all countries and remains one of the most important development challenges facing humanity. It disrupts national economies and affects lives, costing people, communities and countries significantly today and in the future. The main impacts of climate change are observed through both slow onset events (e.g., sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, forest degradation, biodiversity loss and desertification) and sudden extreme weather events.' A fourth paragraph explains: 'Climate change occurs in a sequence of key events. They include process drivers, GHG emissions, CO₂ concentrations, changes evidencing climate change, occurrence of slow onset events and occurrence of extreme hydrometeorological events; which, depending on the country's disaster preparedness and risk reduction infrastructure, will result in disasters and their corresponding impacts on people, human settlements, economic assets and ecosystems. Each of the parts of this sequence can be described and measured to some extent, and pertinent statistics can be produced, depending on countries' priorities and resources.' A fifth paragraph notes: 'Most of the literature about climate change is focused on analytical and policy aspects. The guidance available about data and statistics for the measurement of climate change is mainly about methodologies to estimate GHG emissions. However, work is increasingly being conducted to develop methodologies on the other aspects. They include climate change evidence and impacts, quantification of the occurrence of disasters, their magnitude and different impacts, as well as adaptation efforts.' A sixth paragraph concludes: 'Due to this increasing importance of statistical work on climate change, this new knowledge platform is dedicated to climate change statistics. It aims to provide guidance and tools for countries interested in collecting, compiling and disseminating climate change statistics, emphasizing those that are related to environment statistics.' A final paragraph states: 'This platform includes various documents, tools and resources which are being made available.'

Below the text, there are two sub-sections: 'UNSD documents and conferences on climate change statistics' and 'Other useful resources'. At the bottom of the page, there is a search box with the text 'Enter search terms' and a 'Go' button, and a footer with links for 'Back to top', 'Statistics Division Home', 'Contact Us', 'Search', and 'Site Map'.

Thank you for your attention!



Please contact us:

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