Sixth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics

New York, 21-23 May 2019

Final Report

1. The Sixth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics (EGES), organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), was held in New York from 21 to 23 May 2019.
2. The meeting was attended by 40 experts from Botswana, Brazil, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nepal, The Netherlands, Philippines, State of Palestine, Suriname, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations University (UNU), and three independent experts. The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and Estonia took part at the meeting remotely and presentations by Luxembourg were delivered by UNSD.
3. Ms. Reena Shah, UNSD, opened the meeting, the agenda was adopted, and the experts were briefly introduced. Ms. Janet Geoghagen-Martin, Director, Censuses, Demographic & Social Statistics Division, Statistical Institute of Jamaica chaired the meeting.
4. The meeting was organized in five sessions as follows:

   Session 1: Environment Statistics Toolbox

   Session 2: Environment Statistics Data Collection

   Session 3: Climate Change Statistics

   Session 4: Other Work in Environment Statistics

   Session 5: Discussion of Priorities and Conclusions

5. The discussions were based on documents and the corresponding presentations were prepared by EGES members and UNSD.
6. Short descriptions of the presentations and the main discussion points are summarized in the paragraphs 8-48. Session Five contains the meeting conclusions and recommended actions (paragraphs 49-52). The agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex A, and the list of participants is attached as Annex B.
7. The Expert Group expressed its appreciation to UNSD and to all experts who contributed to the work completed.

I. Session One: Environment Statistics Toolbox

8. Session one included four parts:
    - Brief overviews of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) and the process of developing methodology sheets as part of the Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics followed by a discussion on their applications and experiences with their use.
    - Presentations on six draft methodology sheets.
    - Group-work discussions on key issues and the steps needed to finalize the draft methodology sheets.
    - Presentation of templates and examples of a National Action Plan (NAP) and the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT) reporting followed by a discussion on the steps needed to finalize them.
9. The progress made in the implementation of the FDES and the ESSAT were presented by UNSD. Following this, the status of progress on the methodology sheets of the Manual was also introduced by UNSD. Sharing experiences on the application of the methodology sheets was led by Jamaica. It was noted that the methodology sheets are used both by countries and the Regional Commissions, and their continuous update is important as well as their translation into other UN official languages. In addition, experts expressed the usefulness of the methodology sheets for various purposes, including helping to communicate topics across the National Statistical System and also to address certain SDGs (Italy), expanding collaboration with other stakeholders and engaging with academics for specialized topics (Tanzania), assisting for the development of regional environmental indicators (UNECE), and for collaboration with the ministry of environment (Mexico). Originally, it was planned to have guidance on all topics introduced in specific methodology sheets; however, certain prioritization should be considered for the remaining ones. Although not direct topics or sub-components of the FDES, it was noted that transport and tourism were important issues, and an application of tourism as a cross-cutting issue could be developed. Following the updating of the sheets based on recent international or methodological developments since the FDES 2013, a suggestion was made to develop an addendum of revisions to the FDES in view of its future update. It was noted that that such new or revised concepts and terms would be incorporated into the methodology sheets as appropriate. The main authors/contributors to the methodology sheets would also be acknowledged.
10. Six draft methodology sheets (or chapters of the manual) were presented. First, the chapter on Marine water quality was presented remotely by UN Environment and a brief discussion followed, underlining the need for more detailed indicators on the subject. It was noted that the term 'coral bleaching' needed to be defined further (specifying that it means death of an ecosystem). The working group reported recommendations to consider widening the scope of the chapter to include, for example, pollution not only of marine waters but also of beaches. More detailed definitions (nitrates, ammonia), measures (percentage of coral bleaching, in addition to the total area) and further expertise should also be collected on the subject. In addition, it was proposed to develop a cross-cutting chapter on oceans.

11. The next five chapters (Disaster statistics, Geology, Greenhouse gases, Environmental information and awareness and Wastewater statistics) were introduced and discussions on each were held in working groups. Key reflections and conclusions are summarized below.
12. Disaster statistics (presented by UNECE): the link between the FDES and the Sendai Framework was underlined, and the need for additional statistics and details on disaster events, as well as the need for updating the terminology in this methodology sheet were noted. Feedback from the chapter reviews and suggestions for new infographics were shown. The working group discussion reported the following key points:
    - There are no well-established, internationally-recognized criteria to define a "disaster", either by numbers of people affected, or by the number of those deceased.
    - An agreement was drawn to update the terminology according to the Sendai Framework. For example, the term "extreme events and disasters" should be updated to "hazardous events and disasters";
    - The existing classifications are not statistical but can be applied for statistical purposes;
    - There are no official thresholds on cut-off times defining when a disaster starts and ends, and this issue should be addressed at the national level;
    - Sub-component 6.3 (on Extreme Event Preparedness and Disaster Management), Topic 6.3.1: Preparedness for natural extreme events and disasters should be included in the present chapter;
    - Sub-component 4.2 (Technological Disasters) should not be addressed in this chapter so that the chapter can be completed promptly. Technological and complex disasters should be mentioned in the introductory section and a new chapter focusing on Sub-component 4.2 and Topic 6.3.2: Preparedness for technological disasters should be developed;
    - The new infographics (diagrams and figures from ECLAC) should be introduced in section 6; and
    - Complex disasters should be included, e.g., Fukushima which was an earthquake that caused a nuclear event.
13. Geology (presented by Mexico): key definitions, classifications and data sources on the subject were introduced. Issues related to the nature of several indicators in this topic which are of limited statistical relevance were noted. The working group summarized the following points:
    - There is no need to elaborate on the concepts and definitions for statistics with very low frequency of change; e.g., length of border;
    - Earth Observations and spatial analysis form a key part in this topic and there is a need for more explanation in the document. The relationships between the National Statistical Office (NSO) and National Mapping Agency must be emphasized;
    - Country borders and coasts are sometimes linked to (international) disputes and conflicts which need to be reflected in the text;
    - Classifications, groupings, indicators and SDGs are too technically explained in the current document, and they need to be re-written for statistical purposes; and
    - The revised chapter should be sent for review to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).

14. Greenhouse gases (presented by UNSD): new issues and ideas relevant to this topic (since the chapter structure was presented at the third EGES meeting in 2016) were introduced, including extended coverage of emissions and removals, new sources of data, the need for updates following new Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance and assessment reports. The following points were reported by the working group:
    - Clarification is needed to distinguish between concentrations and emissions throughout the chapter, but the linkage between them should be emphasized. It should be noted that concentrations are actual measurements while emissions are generally estimated;
    - It is expected that NSOs will be more involved in the preparation of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories following the new Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement. For example, NSOs will provide official data used in estimating emissions and also where the IPCC provides default values on emission factors, NSOs can contribute greatly to develop country-specific ones;
    - That being said, NSOs also need to collaborate with other entities, such as Ministries of Environment, to estimate and compile the GHG data, since in many cases the reporting to UNFCCC of these data fall under the jurisdiction of line ministries;
    - In the meantime, data reported from non-mandatory sources are also important for the compilation of national figures;
    - Consistency of definitions regarding impacts, activities and drivers as addressed by the SDGs, FDES and UNFCCC are important and should be further developed to make sure that compiled data can fulfil the different reporting demands;
    - The system of Tiers used in the Basic Set of Environment Statistics in the FDES and those used in the IPCC guidelines differ and each one should be specifically referred to where relevant;
    - The chapter should not be considered a repetition of the IPCC guidelines but rather a summary guidance for primarily statisticians, providing appropriate referencing to the more detailed IPCC guidelines, and should be updated when the new guidance from the IPCC is available;
    - More specific definitions are needed on carbon sequestration;
    - Regarding GHG emissions, the focus should be restricted to those from anthropogenic sources (man-made) and not those from natural sources; and
    - Further comments on GHGs referred to the need to explain that currently the largest emitters are no longer developed countries, that the concentration of CO_2 is at its highest for the last three million years (415 ppm) which should be reflected more visibly in global statistics work, and that only for the European Union countries reporting is obligatory according to both the IPCC and System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) formats.
15. Environmental Information and Awareness (presented by UNSD): Emphasis was given to the issues of missing definitions, classifications and lack of conventional data sources since part of the statistics included in this chapter are rarely included in official statistics.
    - The working group underlined that part of the statistics in this chapter are measurable and self-explanatory, therefore no further definitions are needed.

- However, some indicators, such as environmental perception, are not measured but are important and further work should be organized to develop specific definitions and proposals to complete the chapter.

16. Wastewater Statistics (presented by UNSD): UNSD shared its statistical and data collection experience in the field of wastewater, while requesting inputs from an expert with subject matter knowledge in the field of wastewater to contribute to the further development of this current draft.
    - In concrete terms, the progression of this manual chapter shall call upon contributions from a wastewater expert. Group work by Experts suggested that the chapter should consider that preferred data sources be contingent upon a country's stage of development. For example, in some countries a supply and use table (SUT) can be used to estimate wastewater.
    - The general observation was that data may be more readily sourced from and aggregated upward from individual wastewater treatment plants in more developed countries. An alternative approach may be considered in the case of a developing country.
    - The contrast between rural and urban settings for wastewater statistics should also be mentioned in the chapter as this will be especially apparent in the case of developing countries.
    - Seasonality should also be carefully considered especially for temporal aggregation where data may be collected daily, monthly, annually or otherwise.
    - UNSD shall solicit assistance from the Experts of the EGES or a referral from the Experts. Thereafter UNSD anticipates it shall share the compilation of this manual with those Experts.
17. In conclusion of this part of Session one UNSD was encouraged to lead the effort to introduce these methodology sheets to the statistical community, and make them appealing and applicable to a wide range of environment statistics stakeholders, including government statisticians, experts in line ministries, and during the regular stakeholder meetings. A template for the remaining methodology sheets with an outline of key issues of each topic was recommended to be prepared by UNSD. Consequently, UNSD shall explore most appropriate institutions/experts to complete the drafting.
18. The last part of Session one focused on the FDES implementation tools. A country example of applying the ESSAT and NAP templates was presented by Tanzania raising some issues of overlapping content in the two templates. UNSD presented the two templates and brief notes on their application in Namibia and The Gambia. The discussion that followed underlined the importance of the templates and formalizing them to facilitate institutional collaboration. Several countries informed of their experiences using the ESSAT, including Nepal, Suriname, Mexico and Regional Commissions (UNECE and ECLAC) noted the use of the ESSAT in countries in their respective regions as part of capacity development projects. Some countries agreed to provide feedback on the application of the ESSAT reporting template used to summarize the results of the ESSAT as well as on the NAP template. UNSD emphasized the need for more national contributions to assess the utility of the templates, complete their contents and recommend them for global use. UNSD will follow up on the above-mentioned work with countries.

II. Session Two: Environment Statistics Data Collection

19. This session was divided into three sections: (i) Environmentally-related SDG indicators and other reporting requirements; (ii) Waste statistics; and (iii) Water statistics. Several presentations were delivered and a round table discussion was held for each section.
20. Environmentally-related SDG indicators and other reporting requirements: Regarding statistics presented by the colleague from the Netherlands, observations were made on differing GHG statistics and trends per application of the territory principle (for the IPCC) as opposed to the residence principle (for the SEEA). Other environment statistics were presented, including nutrient budgets and recycling in the country, and national experience on SDG reporting were shared. Italy provided an overview of its advancing 'geography of sustainable development' based on ISTAT's work on the SDGs.
21. Encouragement was voiced for all countries to provide the best possible quality data to international agencies wherever possible. This was said to be in the best interest of official statistics. In doing so, countries will reduce the need for estimations to be made by third parties based on unofficial and possibly not so credible sources.
22. Experts encouraged further coordination by international agencies involved in data collections from countries, for both SDG indicators and other reporting needs.
23. As was compiled for the review of the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 49th session held in New York in March 2018[1], UNSD shall again compile a Background Document to the Report of the Secretary-General on Environment Statistics for the 51st session of the Statistical Commission that will be held in New York in March 2020. As in the case of the document prepared for the 49th session, this document shall contain an inventory of international environmental data collections, and reporting and dissemination tools conducted by international, regional and sub-regional agencies. The value of such an inventory is to, *inter alia*, assist countries in identifying data collections to which they may be responsible for providing data, and to help countries ensure they are prepared with relevant focal points for each data collection.
24. Data collection challenges to address the Basic Set of Environment Statistics at national level were presented by Anand Sookun and Zimbabwe, with examples from Mauritius and Namibia. Templates for national data collection and metadata tools were introduced in view of facilitating consistent and comparable national statistics production. The importance of developing such templates was emphasized by the Expert Group and countries will continue to share national data collection templates with UNSD. Anand and Zimbabwe will further develop this work in consultation with UNSD and the Expert Group.
25. FAO presented an overview of its data collection for agri-environmental statistics, including land use, pesticides and fertilizers. The need for improved methodologies and capacity building was underlined. The representative from FAO also mentioned that new data demands will arise, for example on sustainable agriculture, which will require improved coordination mechanisms.

[1] UNSD (2018), Background Document to the Report of the Secretary-General on Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/31), https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/49th-session/documents/BG-Item4k-EnvironmentStatistics-E.pdf (accessed 3 June 2019).

26. The section on waste statistics included presentations from UNSD on global waste statistics data collection; municipal solid waste and hazardous waste presented by UN Habitat and UN Environment (remotely); environmental and waste (including e-waste) statistics and SDG reporting needs in Jordan; e-waste statistics development in Tanzania, global partnership on e-waste statistics led by UNU; aggregation of waste data from local through national level in Japan; and updates on the waste statistics guidance developed by the UNECE/Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Task Force on the subject.
27. The discussions on waste statistics underlined that further work on consistent and unified definitions, and improvements in the e-waste calculation tool to make it more applicable to developing countries are needed. It was also mentioned that compilation guidelines would be useful. Suriname is developing household surveys with a component on waste collection.
28. Regarding waste statistics, UNSD will share with experts a comparison table of existing definitions related to waste statistics currently used by international organizations. Compilation guidelines may be developed with reference to the existing Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics of the FDES 2013: Generation and Management of Waste.[2]
29. Experts were made aware of the UNU's electronic-waste (e-waste) tool which they are encouraged to apply as necessary in compiling data for e-waste generated. Improvements in the e-waste calculation tool to make it more applicable to developing countries will be pursued.
30. The section on water statistics started with Estonia's experience presented remotely; the joint UNSD/UN Environment questionnaires on water statistics collection were introduced by UNSD; FAO's AQUASTAT and Palestine's experiences with water statistics were also presented. The Expert representing Botswana shared his country's experience in using a Technical Working Group comprised of multiple national level ministries and agencies to provide data on water statistics and offered to share a description of the experience. Such a practice presented one method by which countries could work towards achieving a uniform and well-coordinated response to international data collections. This example follows the experiences shared by Mexico[3] whereby responses to international data collections were included on the agenda of their Inter-Agency Climate Change Committee, and Kenya's mention of its Environment Statistics Committee to include both producers and users of statistics at the one forum.[4]
31. The Expert representing Suriname also detailed her country's experience where stakeholder workshops are held biennially. Government agencies receive data from water companies which is used for the UNSD/UN Environment Questionnaire on Environment Statistics (water section) and where the Ministry of Environment provides data to be used for the FAO AQUASTAT Water and Agriculture Questionnaire.
32. One Expert shared with plenary that multiple mandates exist at the international level, which has led to an increase in data collections, often to meet demand for country data for SDG indicator

[2] UNSD (2018), Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics of the FDES 2013: Generation and Management of Waste https://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/FDES/MS_3.3.1_3.3.2_Waste.pdf (accessed 3 June 2019).
[3] UNSD (2018), Fifth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics: Final Report (para. 51) https://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/FDES/EGES5/Final%20Report.pdf (accessed 3 June 2019).
[4] UNSD (2017), Fourth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics: Final Report (para. 23) https://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/FDES/EGES4/Final%20Report.pdf (accessed 3 June 2019).

compilation. Custodian agencies at the international level are following the guidelines of the Statistical Commission[5] even though there may have been separate mandates calling for international data collection prior to the adoption of the SDGs.

33. To this end, Eurostat, FAO, OECD and UNSD shall continue their close collaboration regarding data collections on the theme of water. In addition to existing comparisons of countries' data, some of which were presented during the EGES (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Egypt, Jordan, Republic of Moldova, Zimbabwe), FAO and UNSD should continue comparing non-OECD/Eurostat countries' data until at least a total of 10 countries data sets are available for comparison and that similar comparisons should be carried out for the OECD/Eurostat countries by FAO and the respective institutions. It was also agreed that the institutions compile a short descriptive text detailing observations and key learnings.
34. Following encouragement from some experts, Eurostat, FAO, OECD and UNSD shall compile a table documenting which variables collected from one international agency's questionnaire correspond exactly or closely to those variables collected by another agency. The idea of such a table is to reduce countries' respondent burden when providing data to international agencies.
35. FAO and UNSD agreed to exchange focal points of their respective data collections. This is seen as a good way to ensure minimization of respondent burden to countries so long as the FAO AQUASTAT Water and Agriculture Questionnaire and the UNSD/UN Environment Questionnaire on Environment Statistics (water section) are both sent to countries.
36. UNSD agrees that, following its decades-long close collaboration with Eurostat and OECD, to continue to collaborate closely with these two organisations as well as with FAO. The idea is to ensure that all data collections are completely harmonized to the greatest extent possible, while still pursuing the possibility of achieving one integrated questionnaire. It was acknowledged during discussion that the achievement of one integrated questionnaire could be a substantive and lengthy process.

III. Session Three: Climate Change Statistics

37. The session on Climate change statistics included presentations and working group discussions. UNSD introduced the global work on climate change statistics and the planned next steps, which include a pilot survey, ultimately leading to a full global consultation to derive a global set of climate change statistics and indicators as mandated by the Statistical Commission. The bottom-up approach to determine the most common indicators based on a compilation and review of indicators from 103 countries was briefly explained and preliminary work in the identification of common indicators was presented, which includes a total of 148 headline indicators allocated into the five areas: adaptation (24), drivers (22), impacts (51), mitigation (25), vulnerability (26). The collaborative work between UNSD and UNFCCC, for example, in the development of these indicators and in the area of capacity development in this field, was also described.

[5] UNSD (2017), Report of the forty-eighth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/Report-on-the-48th-session-of-the-statistical-commission-E.pdf (accessed 3 June 2019).

38. UNFCCC introduced the most recent developments with linkages between climate change statistics and policy and the negotiation process that started after Paris and finished in Katowice (COP24). The monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system for all Parties under Convention and Kyoto Protocol is the basis for the new Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement. In Katowice, Parties adopted modalities, procedures and guidelines for the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement for bi-annual reporting which is of key relevance to national statistics. Transparency of information is about accurate data from all countries, and NSOs play a critical role. Disaggregated and country-specific emission factors and methodologies to estimate GHG emissions based on IPCC guidelines are only possible to develop with NSO involvement within the National Statistical System. There is an on-going UNFCCC project for strengthening the capacity of developing countries to prepare national GHG inventories.
39. FAO introduced its latest work on agri-environment and climate change statistics, including clarifications of the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector as often the biggest contributor (in developing countries) and the most vulnerable sector to negative climate impacts. FAO's recent accomplishments include the establishment of a global database on temperature changes, developed with NASA, emissions from burned biomass and degraded peat lands. A key point emphasized was that underlying data and statistics are needed to streamline and improve reporting to three global programmes/standards, namely: UNFCCC, SDGs and SEEA.
40. A discussion following the above three presentations raised several issues:
    - NSOs do not take part in the COP meetings, due probably to funding implications and should be more involved at national level. There are big trade-offs between managing lands for climate mitigation versus food production. Differences between developed and developing world are mainly in terms of energy versus AFOLU emissions: in developed countries, about 70% of GHG comes from energy; in developing countries, AFOLU is often between 50-70%;
    - All GHG data on FAOSTAT are at Tier 1, based on countries' activities with default emission factors; and
    - GHG emission accounts according to the SEEA Central Framework and SEEA Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries help to clarify the relationship to the economy.
41. UNECE presented reflections on the work of the Task Force on Climate Change-Related Statistics and Indicators, which focused on balancing between the reporting requirements for the SDGs, Sendai Framework, SEEA and FDES and the use of dual indicators.
42. UN-ECLAC presented examples on climate change statistics reflecting on the recent climate trends and phenomena, disaster events and impacts in South America, such as economic losses, carbon intensity, material and energy intensity of GDP. A key point was made on the need to have global and regional figures on such changes more visible.
43. The European Environment Agency presented regional work on climate change indicators for the European (including neighbourhood) countries in support of European environment policies. Copernicus Land monitoring and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet) are key data provision programmes which include a data flow on greenhouse gases. There are currently 121 indicators focussed mostly on climate change and biodiversity. A note on the challenges to advance integrated reporting (as opposed to indicator-based) was raised.

44. UNSD presented national work on climate change indicators on behalf of Luxembourg with regard to the selection, definition and validation of the indicators, as well as the plans for their first publication. Another national example was presented by Nepal that included major findings of the National Climate Change Impact Survey (2016). The survey was completed with government funding and support from ESCAP.
45. Group work summaries on the climate change indicators compiled by UNSD raised the following points. With the understanding that the draft set of common indicators compiled by UNSD based on 103 countries was preliminary, it was noted that better wording and clarifications were needed for several indicators. Given the concern of data availability, in particular for developing countries, it was agreed that a tier system for the indicators would be helpful. It was also proposed to have a short description of the indicator name or examples (or some form of metadata), in particular for the Tier 1 indicators. Additional details to be elaborated include reflections on measurability, and to what extent a given indicator is attributable to climate change. More spatial considerations are needed, with spatially explicit maps of population, territory and landscapes; vulnerability has to be assessed on the basis of location, taking into account factors like hurricane paths and other disaster risks.
46. Advances on Disaster-related statistics were presented by UNSD, UN-ECLAC and UNECE. Reflections were made on the need to separate impacts from occurrences of disasters, as well as to continue developing guidelines for improving data that will enable disaggregated and internationally comparable statistics.

IV. Session Four: Other Work in Environment Statistics

47. Bilateral and multi-lateral capacity development assistance was presented by Hungary. Concrete examples were discussed, stressing the need to focus on local situations and study problems locally. UNSD presented a statistical cooperation project between Luxembourg and Laos on behalf of Luxembourg describing, *inter alia*, the governance of the project, the use of the ESSAT in determining a statistical system on environment statistics, and the establishment of a national working group on environment statistics. Examples of being a recipient to capacity development in environment statistics were discussed by Togo with particular emphasis on the Project to Improve the Environmental Information System of Togo which has essentially been established to assist in the implementation of the FDES.
48. Currently, there may be duplication of capacity development efforts in environment statistics. Moreover, there is no standard way of assessing the efficiency of such efforts or projects. Given limited resources and in the interest of improving coordination of capacity development efforts, UNSD is planning to conduct an inventory of capacity development in environment statistics, starting with the agencies through the planned Background Document to the Report of the Secretary-General on Environment Statistics for the 51st session of the Statistical Commission that will be held in New York in March 2020.

V. Session Five: Meeting conclusions and recommended actions

49. On Session 1:

- Addendum of the FDES will be prepared before considering its revision.
- Authors will be added to all Methodology sheets.
- A template for the remaining Methodology sheets with an outline of key issues will be prepared by UNSD, then an invitation for volunteers to draft will follow.
- Environmental health (FDES component 5) will be addressed by Jamaica and Suriname.
- The completion of the current six chapters under review will be coordinated by UNSD. For external authors, UNSD will provide the summary of comments for each chapter received prior to the meeting as well as the feedback received during the working groups and ensuing discussions.
    - Marine water quality: UN Environment will finalize this chapter and will consult other experts working in this area.
    - Environmental information and awareness: UNSD will finalize this chapter in consultation with other partners.
    - Disasters: UNECE will finalize this chapter in collaboration with UNECLAC and will send it to UNDRR for inputs.
    - Geology: Mexico, in collaboration with Hungary, Netherlands and Brazil, will revise and finalize this chapter.
    - GHG emissions: UNSD will finalize this chapter in collaboration with UNFCCC and FAO.
    - Wastewater: UNSD will develop this chapter further and contact interested experts to contribute.
- ESSAT and NAP templates will be tested by Jamaica, Suriname and Lesotho and Nepal will provide a summary of a previous application. UNSD will contact other countries to also test these templates and feedback provided to UNSD will be used to finalize and publish them on its website.

50. On Session 2:

- SDGs and other reporting
    - Experts encouraged coordination of data collections by international and regional agencies particularly with collections for SDG reporting.
    - More examples of national data collection templates are needed from countries. UNSD will follow-up with Anand Sookun and Zimbabwe and other countries.
    - UNSD will update the inventory of data collection activities (which will be reported to the Statistical Commission next year), partners are encouraged to contribute.

- Waste
    - UNSD working with experts to provide clarity regarding definitions related to waste statistics as necessary. Thereafter, compilation guidelines may be developed. Reference may be made to the existing methodology sheet on Waste Statistics as part of the Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics.
    - Countries may consider applying the e-waste tool provided by UNU.
- Water
    - In order to minimize respondent burden to countries, UNSD and FAO to share focal points for their data collections as much as possible.
    - UNSD, FAO, OECD and Eurostat shall compile a correspondence table comparing like terms between questionnaires to be attached to the questionnaires during data collection.
    - UNSD and FAO to work together with OECD and Eurostat to move toward harmonized data collections while working towards an integrated questionnaire.
    - Botswana is requested to contribute a short text describing how their stakeholder meeting mainly with Department of Water Affairs, took place, and how this helped consolidate water data at the national level.

51. On Session 3 (Climate change)
    - Based on the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework there will be increased demands for information to NSOs from national climate change reporting institutions.
    - Reemphasized that data used for reporting under the climate change process (UNFCCC) should come mostly from official sources (NSOs).
    - UNSD will expand its website showing more global climate change statistics and indicators (e.g., CO_2 trends).
    - Based on the feedback from the working groups UNSD will revise the preliminary list of indicators and share it with interested experts before finalizing the pilot survey to be sent to selected countries for testing.
    - UNSD and UNFCCC will continue to undertake joint initiatives to develop climate change statistics and indicators, as well as collaborate on capacity development with support from other partners.
    - The global consultation will take place next year, in preparation for the Report of the Secretary-General to the Statistical Commission in 2021.
52. On Session 4 (Capacity development)
    - UNSD will develop an inventory of capacity development activities by agencies and submit to the Statistical Commission in 2020 as part of the Background Report on Environment statistics to the Report of the Secretary-General on Environment Statistics.
    - Countries that also provide bilateral assistance will also be asked about their current and planned activities which will be shared.

ANNEX A

Sixth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics

New York, 21-23 May 2019

Secretariat Building

Room 2727

Final Agenda

Tuesday, 21 May 2019

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:30 Opening and objectives of the meeting

Adoption of the agenda

Introduction of experts

Session One: Environment Statistics Toolbox

09:30 – 12:00 **FDES and the Basic Set of Environment Statistics** - UNSD (10 mins)

Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics

a) Status of progress of the Manual - UNSD (10 mins)

b) Experience in application of methodology sheets - (led by Jamaica - 15 mins)

Coffee break 15 mins

c) Presentations of draft chapters (including comments received)
   i. Draft chapter on Disaster Statistics - UNECE (15 mins)
   ii. Draft chapter on Geology - Mexico (15 mins)
   iii. Draft chapter on Air emissions and greenhouse gas emissions - UNSD (15 mins)
   iv. Draft chapter on Marine Water Quality - UNEP (15 mins)

v. Draft chapter on Environmental Protection, Management and Engagement Statistics - UNSD (15 mins)
vi. Draft chapter on Wastewater statistics - UNSD (15 mins)

12:00 – 12.30 Group work on each draft chapter and discussion on best use of the chapters

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 14:00 Group work on each draft chapter and discussion on best use of the chapters (cont)

14:00 – 14:45 Reports of group work to plenary

14:45 – 15:00 Timetable for finalization of all chapters and call of interest for additional chapters

15:00 – 16:30 **Implementation of the FDES 2013, the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT) and national action plans**

a) Country experience in implementing and reporting on ESSAT/ developing National Action Plans - Tanzania (15 mins)
b) Templates: National Action Plans for Implementation of FDES 2013; Results and analysis of the ESSAT - UNSD (15 mins)

16:30 – 17:00 Discussion

17:45 – 20:00 Reception

Wednesday, 22 May 2019

Session Two: Environment Statistics Data Collection

09:00 – 10:00 **Environmentally-related SDG indicators and other reporting requirements**

a) Country experience on compiling SDG indicators, international data collections and national data collection – Netherlands/Italy (15 mins each)

b) Templates for national data collection - Anand Sookun/Zimbabwe (15 mins)

c) Update on FAO agri-environmental data collection: fertilizers, pesticides and land use statistics - FAO (15 mins)

Discussion (15 mins)

Coffee break 15 mins

10:00 – 12:30 **Waste Statistics**

a) UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics – results of the 2018 round of data collection and relevance to SDG indicators - UNSD (15 mins)

b) Selected SDG indicators related to waste statistics – 11.6.1, 12.4.2 and 12.5.1 - UN Environment and UN-Habitat (15 mins)
c) Country experiences in e-waste data compilation - Jordan/Tanzania (15 mins each)
d) Utilization of e-waste data - UNU (15 mins)
e) Aggregation of waste data from local through national level - National Institute of Environment Studies, Japan (15 mins)
f) Update on UNECE Task Force on Waste Statistics - UNECE (15 mins)
Round table discussion - (led by Philippines - 30 mins)

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 15:00 **Water Statistics**

a) UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics – results of the 2018 round of data collection and relevance to SDG indicators - UNSD (15 mins)
b) Selected SDG indicators related to the FAO Aquastat Questionnaire – 6.3.1, 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 - FAO (15 mins)
c) Country experiences in water statistics data collection - Estonia/Palestine (15 mins each)
Round table discussion - (led by Uganda - 30 mins)

Session Three: Climate Change Statistics

15:00 – 15:15 Global work on climate change statistics - UNSD

15:15 – 15:30 Linking climate change statistics and policy - UNFCCC

15:30 – 15:45 Recent work related to climate change statistics (temperature, emissions from agriculture) - FAO

15:45 – 16:00 Update on UNECE work on climate change statistics - UNECE

16:00 – 16:15 Regional Programme on Climate Change Statistics and Indicators - ECLAC

16:15 – 16:30 Regional work on climate change at EEA - EEA

16:30 – 17:00 Country presentations - Luxembourg/Nepal (15 mins each)

17:00 – 17:30 Discussion

18:30 – 20:00 Dinner

Thursday, 23 May 2019

09:00 – 11:00 Group work on climate change statistics and indicators

Coffee break 15 mins

11:00 – 12:00 Reports of group work to plenary

12:00 – 12:30 Discussion

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 14:30 **Disaster-related statistics**

Presentations – UNSD (15 mins)

UN-ECLAC (15 mins)

UN-ECE/Italy (15 mins)

Discussion (15 mins)

Session Four: Other Work in Environment Statistics

14:30 – 16:00 **Capacity development – bilateral and multi-lateral assistance**

Country presentations - Hungary/Luxembourg/Togo (15 mins each)

Round table discussion - (led by Suriname - 30 mins)

Session Five: Discussion of Priorities and Conclusions

16:00 – 16:30 Summary and conclusions

16:30 – 17:00 Evaluation

17:00 Closing of the meeting

ANNEX B

ESA/STAT/AC.297

EGES/6

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
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Sixth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics (EGES)
New York, 21-23 May 2019

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