

New Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics



Eleventh Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics

Virtual Meeting, via UN headquarters, New York, 14-17 October 2024



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Background

- The Statistical Commission at its 44th session in 2013 endorsed:
 - the revised [Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics \(FDES 2013\)](#) as the framework for strengthening environment statistics programmes in countries and recognized it as a useful tool in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
 - the [Blueprint for Action](#) which documents a way forward for making the FDES 2013 operational in countries that need guidance in starting or further developing their environment statistics programmes;
 - the establishment of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics ([EGES](#)) to collaborate with UNSD to develop supporting methodological tools¹, hands-on guidance, and training material which contribute to the implementation of the FDES 2013 in countries as evidenced in the growing number of countries publishing FDES coherent environment statistics [compendia](#) in several languages.

¹ The Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool ([ESSAT](#)) and the [Manual](#) on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics



Scope

- The scope of the EGES includes:
 - Standardization of methods, classifications and definitions in environment statistics.
 - Data collection, processing and dissemination of environment statistics, in particular in the areas of water and waste statistics, as well as support the work of the environmentally-related SDG indicators.
 - Technical cooperation, training and capacity development in environment statistics.
 - Coordination and harmonization of environment statistics and indicator programmes and activities.



Participation: countries

It comprises experts on environment statistics and related areas from all geographical regions representing United Nations member States, as well as international and regional organizations.

- Countries: Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, Chile, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Grenada, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, State of Palestine, Suriname, Sweden, Togo, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.



Participation: agencies

Agencies

- AfDB
- CARICOM
- CBD
- COMESA
- ECA
- ECE
- ECLAC
- ECOWAS
- EEA
- ESCAP
- ESCWA
- Eurostat
- FAO
- GCC
- GCF
- IPCC
- OECD
- SPC
- PARIS21
- UNDRR
- UNEP
- UNEP-WCMC
- UNFCCC
- UN-Habitat
- UNITAR
- UN Women
- WHO
- WMO



Functions

- The Expert Group on Statistics (EGES) was convened in 2014. Ten meetings were held up to 2023.
- The EGES:
 - meets annually to review the progress made in the implementation of the FDES 2013 in countries.
 - It also assesses the progress made in the development of methodological and data collection guidance in environment statistics needed for the compilation of environmentally-related SDG indicators and environmental-economic accounts, as well as for reporting to Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- Given the growing importance of climate change statistics, the Statistical Commission, at its 49th session in 2018, inter alia, supported the expansion of the mandate of the EGES to cover more aspects of climate change statistics and indicators.



Expanded mandate

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- For example:
 - There is a clear overlap between these two areas of statistics as can be seen in the FDES 2013 where a number of statistics are also a part of the Global Set and serve as inputs to related indicators.
 - Questions from censuses and surveys aimed at collecting data on the environment also yields data which serve as inputs for climate change statistics and indicators.
 - Capacity building activities in these two areas usually flow together.
 - The Global Set is designed to cover broadly the 5 areas in the IPCC; and data collection for this Set promotes closer collaboration and coordination with multiple stakeholders at the national level.
 - Working with multiple stakeholders allow countries to collect a wide range of data for their national policy demands as well as for international reporting and requests.



The EG-ECCS

- The Statistical Commission in its 55th session in 2024 agreed to rename the EGES to the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics (EG-ECCS) and to submit one combined report to the Commission to cover both topics given their close inter-relationship.
- **Steering Group**

Following the above decision of the Commission a Steering Group was set up to provide guidance to the EG-ECCS on its key functions, including the revision of the TOR for the Expert Group.

This group currently includes the chair, co-chair, chair(s) of subgroups and UNFCCC and have met a few times to prepare for the eleventh meeting of the EG-ECCS and provide overall guidance to the programme on environment and climate change statistics.



Operationalization

- Complementarily, during each year, the EG-ECCS organizes its work remotely through smaller teams tasked with specific areas of work.
- A sub-group on climate change questions for censuses and surveys
Following a recommendation of the tenth meeting in 2023, a sub-group on census and surveys was established to assist countries to compile a core set of questions to collect data on the Global Set which can be included in censuses and surveys.
This group currently includes work on gender and climate which potentially may be split into a separate group.
- Potential sub-groups to follow-up on: results of the survey on the status of environment and climate statistics; process of revision of indicators/metadata; increased collaboration between NFPs/NSOs



Future Work

- The EG-ECCS expects over the next years to continue/expand the work of the EGES including on:
 - Assisting countries to implement the FDES/ESSAT to develop and strengthen their environment programmes, and disseminate environment/climate change statistics and indicators including publishing compendia
 - Assisting countries with implementation of the Global Set, using the Implementation Guidelines and the CISAT
 - Refining Tier 3 indicators of the Global Set and preparing future revision of the Global Set
 - Further the methodological development of, inter alia,:
 - Climate change and disasters
 - Climate and health
 - Climate and gender
 - Climate and environment questions for census and surveys
 - Supporting countries to strengthen data collection and compilation in the areas of environment and climate change statistics
 - Collecting data from countries, in particular through the UNSD/UNEP questionnaire in the areas of waste and water statistics
 - Advancing work to assist countries in strengthening coordination at the national level for data collection and other activities on environment statistics, as well as guiding and supporting collaboration between the institutions/NFPs and NSOs
 - Capacity development activities to assist countries in environment and climate change statistics



Questions

1. How should participation of the expanded EG-ECCS be addressed given the growing interest, opportunities and requests?

- need stronger representation from data NFPs;
- consider new countries as well as regional representation, including those currently supported outside of the EG-ECCS
- consider level of representation and differentiating roles in the EG-ECCS, e.g. NSO experts, Ministry statisticians, consultants]

2. How can we promote support and financing for environment and climate change statistics?

- project proposals
- high-level buy-in
- partnerships
- mainstreaming environment and climate change statistics among key pillars into national development plans
- strengthening collaboration at international/national level related to financing and technical support to avoid duplication of effort



Thank you for your attention!

For more information please contact the Environment Statistics Section
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Website: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/>

Climate Change Statistics Website

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/climatechange.cshtml>

and

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/ClimateChange_StatAndInd_global.cshtml

