

# Uses of the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators



**11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics**

*Virtual Meeting, via UN headquarters, New York, 14, 15, 16 and 17 October*

**2024**

United Nations Statistics Division



# Outline

1. Background: the mandate requires UNSD and EG-ECCS to monitor the implementation of the Global Set and its uses both by countries and international agencies
2. How: via dedicated surveys within the expert group
3. Structure: **20 questions** progressively tracking the development of climate statistics also including questions on the FDES and data collection to test how do we streamline
4. Responses: **24** countries
5. Key messages
6. Questions to consider for future work



# Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators

1. The Global Set was adopted at the 53rd session of the Statistical Commission ([Decision 53/116 \(2022\)](#))
2. Contains 158 indicators (and 190 statistics) which link policy targets (drivers, impacts, vulnerability, mitigation, adaptation) and statistical indicator frameworks across:
  - Paris Agreement
  - Sendai Framework
  - Sustainable Development Goals
3. The aim is to contribute to:
  - **independent** national policies evaluation
  - **Improved data quality and comparable** reporting to UNFCCC
3. The Global Set helps to define the scope and content of:
  - National programmes, countries use the Global Set to develop their own sets
  - Regional approaches, indicators were adapted/selected by ECLAC and ESCWA
4. Helps to frame and steer:
  - further methodology development in prioritized areas such as gender and health
  - capacity development by UNSD, UNEP, Regional Commissions, CARICOM, COMESA



# Survey on status

## Aim:

- Identify & review best practices (current effort to inform the ones most in need so not systematic),
- For more systematic work - establish an instrument for countries to be able to assess and compare progress, there are many subtleties to still address and better define the questions
- Help to streamline further the work on environment and climate change statistics, including closely related frameworks (SDGs, SEEA, Sendai Framework)
- In countries this will help:
  - 1) to improve the supply/quality of data needed for national policies on climate change;
  - 2) the NSO or institution with legal mandate to comprehensively manage the above considering all MEAs (the CISAT is designed to map the overlaps);
- International agencies may also benefit by obtaining information on the progress in countries as well as gaps, in particular UNFCCC, OECD-IPAC and the ECE taskforce on the role of NSO in climate action.



## Structure:

- 20 substantive questions, formulated in accordance with the implementation steps suggested in Annex 1 of the Implementation Guidelines.
- Similar to Part 1 of CISAT yet also contains questions on the implementation of Part 2. CISAT is for national purposes, while this survey is intended for international review.
- It broadly, enquires about the following 6 stages of developing climate change statistics based on the 14 steps in Annex I of the Guidelines:
  - I. Define responsibilities, legal mandate
  - II. Engage multiple stakeholders
  - III. Secure resources (if missing): human, technical, financial
  - IV. Set up a programme, national set
  - V. Produce and disseminate statistics
  - VI. Prioritize future work



## Climate, environment and data collection survey:

Cabo Verde

Slovenia

Armenia

The Netherlands

Grenada

Hungary

Australia

New Zealand

Czechia

Suriname

Luxembourg

Russian Federation

Uganda

Nepal

United Republic of Tanzania

Sweden

Botswana

Brazil

Zimbabwe

United Kingdom

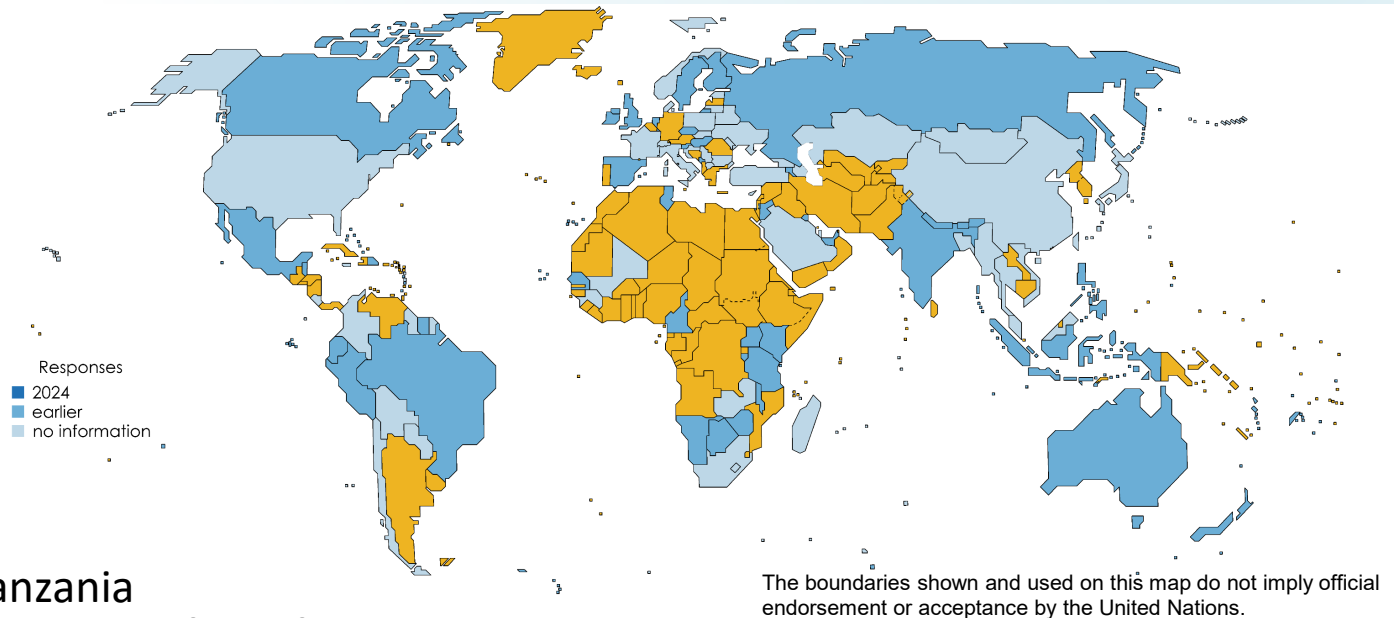
Canada

Finland

India

Mexico

## Growing engagement of countries and responses to surveys in 2024 (98 out 232 countries and territories)



## Climate and gender survey:

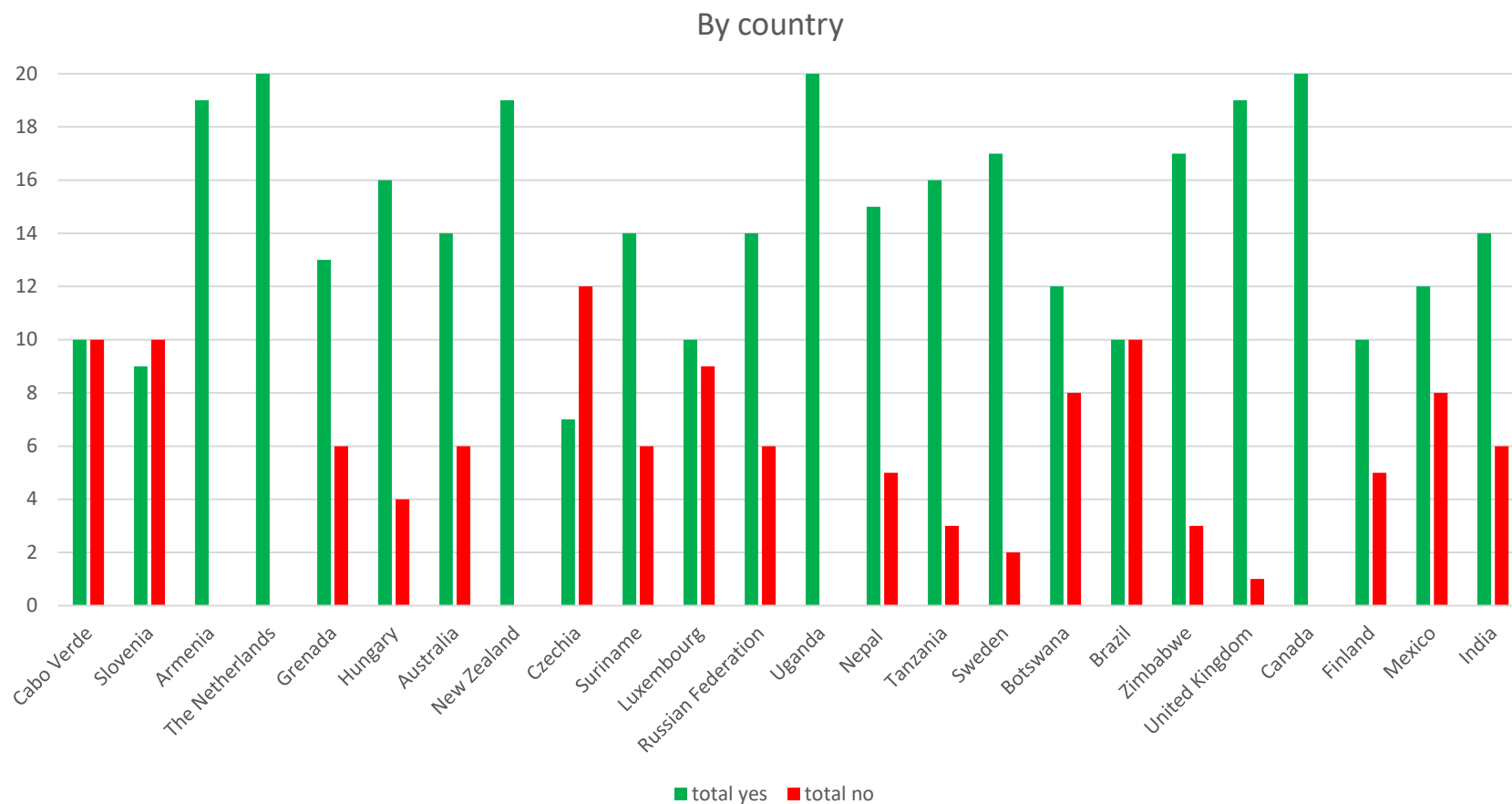
Armenia, Australia, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Czech Republic, Finland, Netherlands, Slovenia, Suriname, Sweden, UAE, UK

Tanzania, Spain, Nepal, Palestine, Ireland, Botswana, Brazil

## Survey to international agencies:

Botswana, Zanzibar, Fiji, Indonesia, Philippines, Bhutan; Tonga, Vanuatu, Guam, Senegal, Kenya, Malawi, Botswana, Grenada, Belize, Saint Lucia, The Bahamas, Dominica, Montenegro, Philippines, Kuwait, Namibia

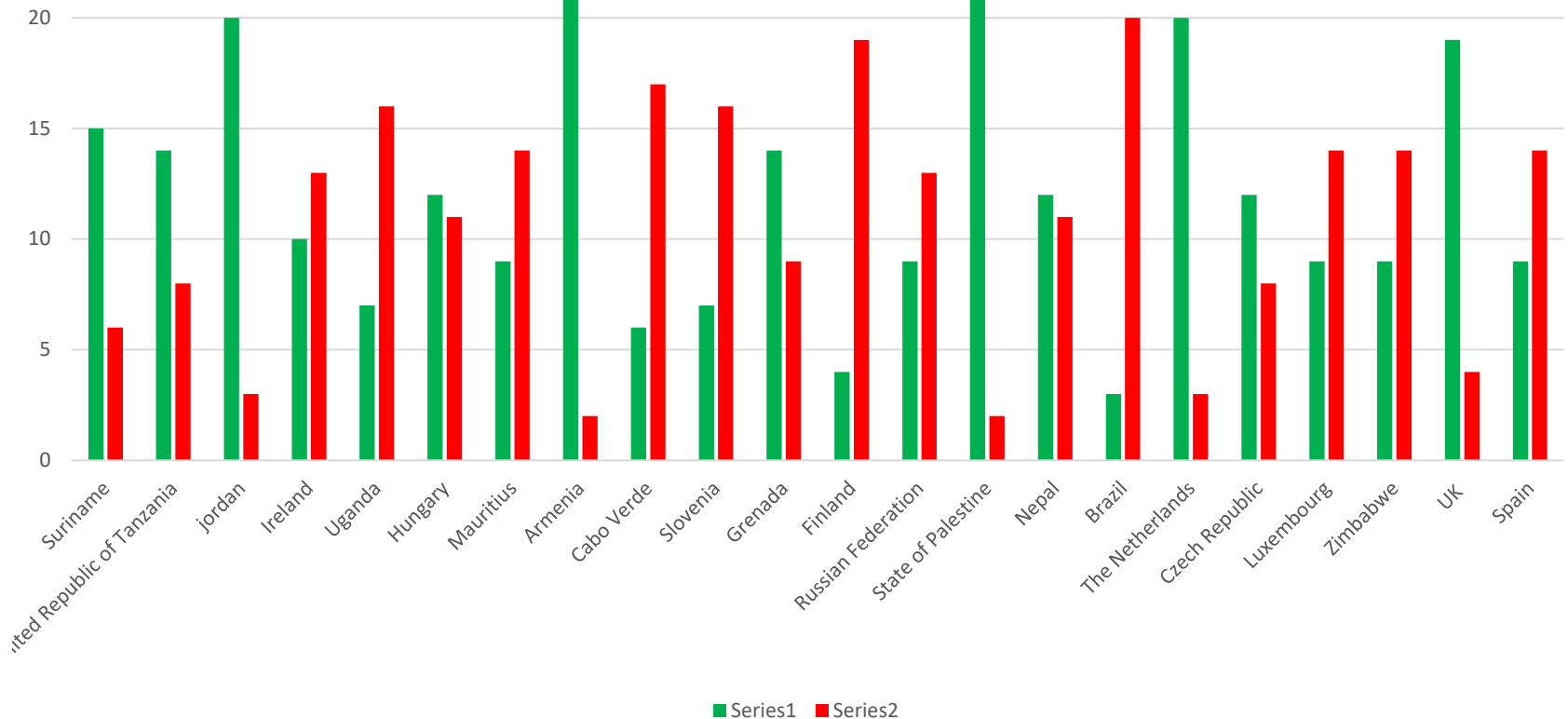
# By country 2024



The positive answers prevail, and more so this year than last year!



# By country 2023

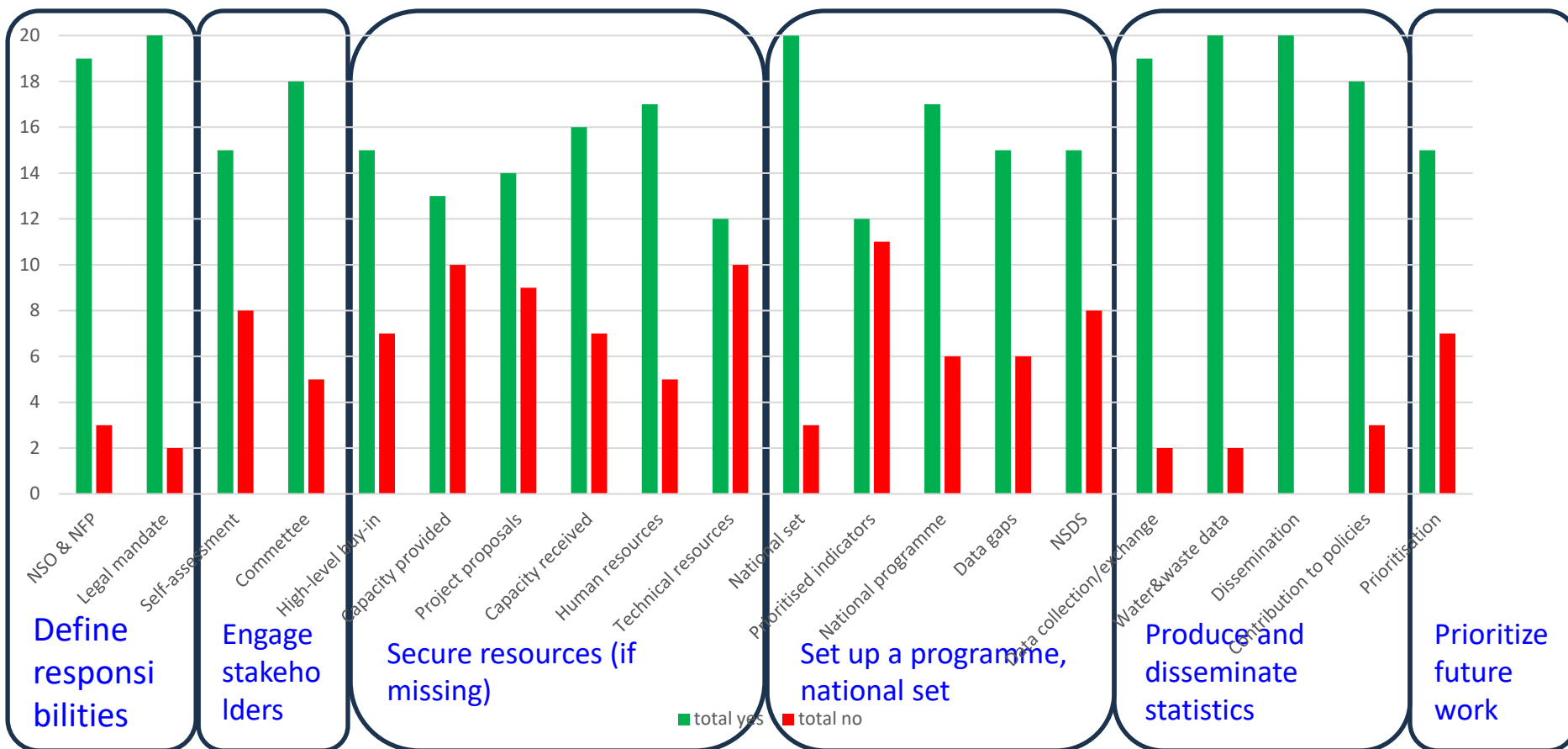


- Five countries answered YES to most questions
- Countries at the start of the process can benefit from the implementation tools the most
- Countries with unique institutional settings answered mostly NO

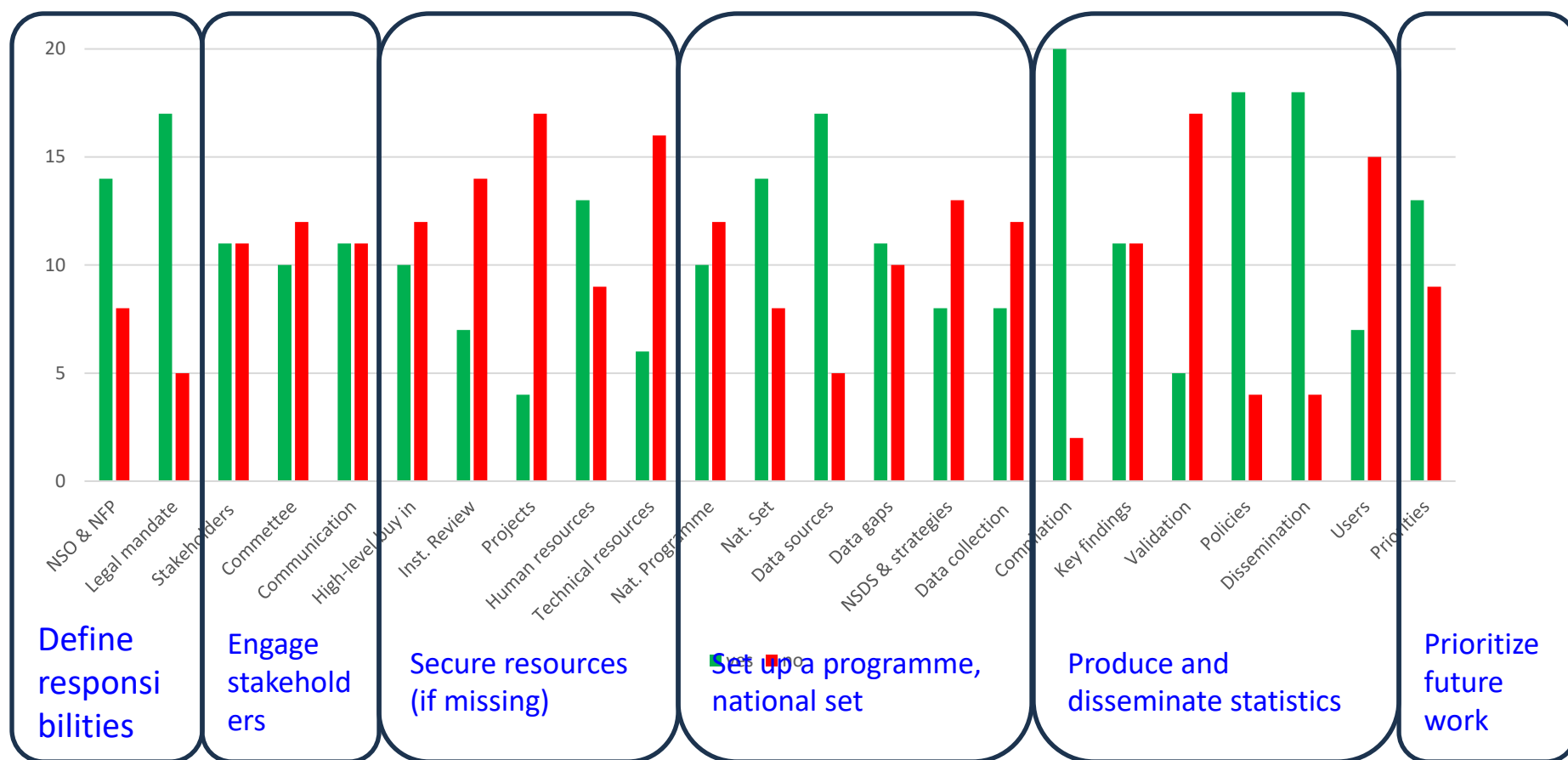




# By question 2024



# By question 2023



# Key messages (1): definition of responsibilities and mandates

**Has the National Statistical Office established relationships with the focal points of the relevant UN Conventions in the country and with which focal points?**

- 19 positive, 3 negative responses
- In countries with well developed statistical systems engagements with NFPs is less common, yet collaboration is often done on technical level (5 out of 19 reported such)

**Has an institution with a legal mandate to produce and disseminate environment and climate change statistics been defined in your country?**

- 21 positive (of which 3 less clear), 2 negative responses
- Most mandates are in the NSOs, few countries report multiple agencies with own mandates, also cases where the NFP is referred to have the mandate for producing statistics.
- Even where statistical mandates are clearly stated there is certain ambiguity on responsibilities and relations between NSOs and NFPs

**Key question: how can NSO ensure that statistical quality is met where there is no clear mechanism to communicate national metadata etc?**



## Key messages (2): self-assessment & engaging stakeholders

**Has a self-assessment for environment and/or climate change statistics been applied?**

- 15 positive (8 used ESSAT/CISAT), 8 negative responses
- Overall, less emphasis on this step, other tools (than ESSAT/CISAT) are also used in particular in Europe

**Has a committee been established or expanded? Are there technical/ thematic/ interinstitutional working groups in your country?**

- 18 positive (of which 3 less clear), 5 negative responses
- Most are with statistical coordination purposes, in some cases countries reported more policy-led engagements including such under UNFCCC.

**Key question/challenge: few examples show strong data and policy interaction, it would be good if policy led committees address data quality but how would the NSO know that?**



# Key messages (3): securing and improving the resource base

## Have you engaged high-level support for the national programme on environment and/or climate change statistics?

- 15 positive (of which 6 not strong/partial), 7 negative responses
- Overall weaker status, **Canada and New Zealand** reported explicit government approval legislation

## Capacity development support provided and received

- 13 countries provided support including **Suriname (St. Lucia, Dominica, Bahamas) and Uganda (Bangladesh, Gambia, Botswana and Namibia)**, Sweden reported support to many countries. Overall low status.
- 16 countries received support, including countries with strong NSS, via EU, OECD and World Bank mechanisms

Key issue/question: Technical resources less of concern in developed NSS yet we need more detail to assess this (e.g. consider big data and alternative sources)



# Key messages (4): preparing national programmes and action plans

**Is there a national set, have indicators and statistics been prioritised for data collection, is there national programme/plan?**

- Lowest score on prioritized indicators, 12 yes (only 4 firm on statistics), 11 no
- Next lowest is on national plan/programme, 17 yes (6 clear), 6 no
- National sets of indicators are reported by most countries (20 of which 15 non-statistical)

**Has the national programme/ national action plan been integrated into a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)?**

- 15 yes (even though in developed NSS there are other than NSDS instruments), 7 no



# Key messages (5): production and dissemination of environment and climate change statistics

## **Have you disseminated statistics and indicators on environment and/or climate change?**

- Only positive responses! Similarly on contribution to the water and waste questionnaires!
- The question needs to be narrowed to help identify where challenges exist

## **Have contributions to national policies and international reporting requirement been provided and have user surveys been conducted?**

- Mostly yes, 18, 3 no. Most countries cited contributions in the SDGs context, also data contributions to GHG inventories



## Conclusions

- FDES and Global Set require separately formulated question, possibly even more targeted on policy uses, such as biodiversity, disasters, water resources management
- The questions needs to address more challenging issues to resolve, e.g. in sorting out institutional responsibilities, methodology solutions, policy effectiveness, etc. so that progress in resolving such issues can be tracked
- The responses already collected with plenty of links and further references can be processed by a sub-group to arrive to better formulation questions for assessing progress





## Questions and next steps

1. Do you recommend that the EG-ECCS should set up a sub-group on assessing and tracking implementation of environment and climate change statistics and with what scope? **[yes, not yet]**
2. Once the survey questions are improved, should we run a global consultation or set up some sort of online platform? **[global consultation, online platform]**
3. In either case would you agree, to make this national information public, accessible to other countries and agencies? **[yes, no]**



# Thank you for your attention!

For more information please contact the Environment Statistics Section  
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Climate Change Statistics Website

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

and

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