



Highlights from the written statements to the Statistical Commission

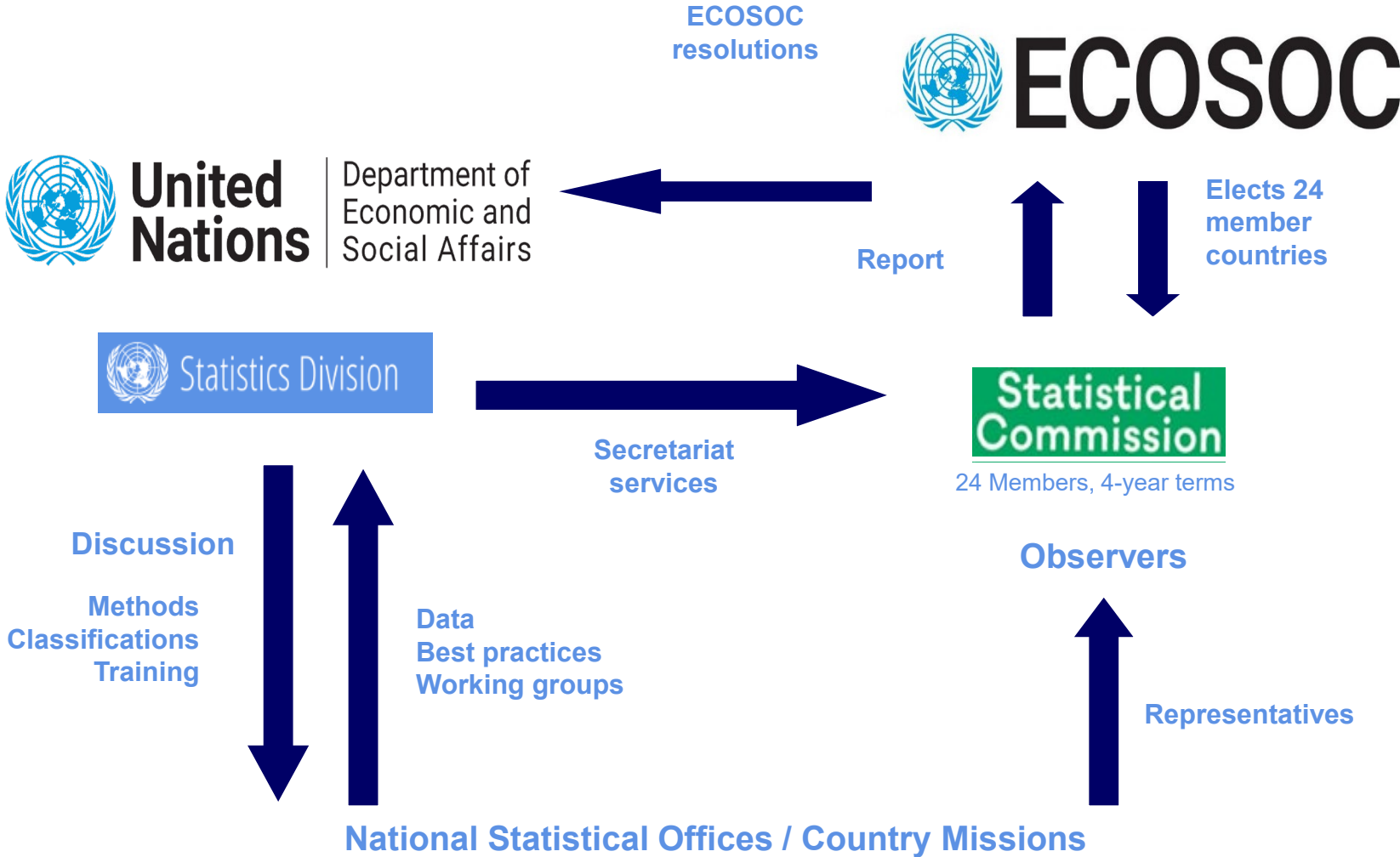
23 September 2025, Environment Statistics Section, UNSD



Outline

1. Brief introduction to the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC)
2. Material the Environment Statistics Section of UN Statistics Division put forth to the UNSC
3. Review of a selection of countries' written statements to the 56th session of the UNSC (March, 2025)
4. The value and impact of countries' contributions and their impact upon the UNSC, NSOs and beyond worldwide.

Contextualising UNSD, the Statistical Commission and member states' and others' roles



UN Statistical Commission mandate

- The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Commission state that it shall assist the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN:
 - in promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability;
 - in the **coordination** of the statistical work of specialized agencies;
 - in the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat;
 - in advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the **collection**, analysis, and dissemination of statistical information;
 - in promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical **methods** generally.





Material the Environment Statistics Section of the UN Statistics Division put forth to the UNSC, March 2025

Report of the Secretary-General on Environment and Climate Change Statistics

Content included:

1. Supporting this Expert Group to consider both environment and climate change statistics;
2. Enhancing collaboration among agencies leading international programmes on climate change data and statistics;
3. Urging countries to strengthen national data collection in environment and climate change statistics.
4. Preparations for biennial transparency reports.

https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_56/documents/2025-25-EnvironmentStats-E.pdf

United Nations		E/CN.3/2025/25
	Economic and Social Council	Distr.: General 18 December 2024 Original: English
Statistical Commission Fifty-sixth session New York, 4–7 March 2025 Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda* Items for decision: environment and climate change statistics		
Environment and climate change statistics Report of the Secretary-General		
<i>Summary</i> <p>The present report provides an overview of the progress towards the streamlining of environment and climate change statistics, as recommended by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-fifth session. It contains updates on the development of methodology and implementation support for the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators, the implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and water and waste data collection. It also contains a description of the outcomes of the 11th meeting of the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics.</p> <p>The Commission is invited, inter alia: (a) to welcome the progress towards streamlining of environment and climate change statistics; (b) to take note of the importance for countries and international organizations of promoting coordinated statistical data collection and compilation which facilitates the harmonization and streamlining of data for both national policy demands and international data reporting requirements and requests; and (c) to encourage countries to use the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators and the accompanying metadata, as well as the implementation support tools (Implementation Guidelines and Climate Change Statistics and Indicators Self-Assessment Tool) to assist in establishing national climate change statistics programmes and to support the ongoing reporting under the Paris Agreement.</p>		
* E/CN.3/2025/1.		
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UN member state shared a written comment prior to the UNSC's 56th session (March 2025) concerning agenda item 4(b): Environment and Climate change statistics. n=16



... and several more countries and international organisations made verbal interventions.

Review of a selection of countries' written statements prior to the 56th session of the UNSC (March, 2025)...

Armenia: “...a **steering group** and **specialized subgroups** is a welcomed initiative that will strengthen methodological support for countries and provide valuable insights into gaps and areas for improvement in global climate statistics.”

Benin (on behalf of the Africa Group): “The **restructuring** of the Expert Group is essential to ensure the **representation of African resource persons** and statistical institutes in the steering group and sub-groups... collaboration of international agencies with African countries should be strengthened in the implementation of programs on climate statistics... to scale up their environmental and climate **data collection**, include a set of core questions in traditional **censuses and surveys**, and integrate climate indicators into national statistical frameworks.”

All written comments received are available here:

<https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/documents/55> (refer Agenda item 4(d), Items for decision: Climate Change Statistics)

Review of a selection of countries' written statements prior to the 56th session of the UNSC (March, 2025)...

Benin (on behalf of the Africa Group): “collaboration between **National Statistical Institutes and National Climate Reporting Focal Points** needs to be improved to ensure that official climate statistics are more widely used in the biennial transparency reports submitted under the Paris Agreement.”

Dominican Republic: “Regarding the ongoing **restructuring** of the EG-ECCS, we understand that this step represents **a significant milestone in strengthening the global capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate high quality environmental and climate data...** promote **gender mainstreaming** and standardization of methodologies... welcome the integration of a **health** perspective into climate change statistics.”

Germany: “An integrated interdisciplinary approach to topics (environment and climate change) is important.”

Review of a selection of countries' written statements prior to the 56th session of the UNSC (March, 2025)...

India: "...acknowledges that international meetings and workshops play a vital role in sharing best practices and advancing climate change statistics. Prioritizing **training and developing** guidance materials for sub-national application, especially on the FDES can significantly enhance effectiveness."

Indonesia: "...strongly supports the **restructuring of the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics** to enhance innovation, relevance, and data comparability... emphasize the need for stronger international collaboration among statistical offices and climate-focused institutions to ensure **harmonized methodologies** and improved data quality for global and national policy use... has integrated **climate change-related questions into national surveys**... guided by the **Global Set** of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators. We urge **continued support for NSOs in adopting the Global Set** and **linking it with frameworks like IPCC/UNFCCC**, ensuring its integration into national reporting mechanisms."

Review of a selection of countries' written statements prior to the 56th session of the UNSC (March, 2025)...

Indonesia: “...encourages **strengthened coordination between the Statistics Division and UNFCCC** to reinforce NSOs' roles in producing climate statistics, advocating for global alignment, and facilitating access to technical assistance.”

Kiribati: “... supports the establishment of the **subgroup on Gender** to advance this area of work.

Mongolia: “endorses the ongoing restructuring of the EG-ECCS... the updates and methodological reviews undertaken by the EG-ECCS are welcomed, as is the establishment of sub-groups on health and gender.”

Philippines: “... supports EG-ECCS restructuring and updates to the **UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics**... strongly endorse the call to guide national statistical offices (NSOs) and national focal points in the production of climate change statistics, which is essential for the effective preparation and submission of **Biennial Transparency Reports**... reaffirms its commitment to intensifying the **use of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES)** as it continues to enhance its **Compendium**... will explore the **ESSAT**.”

Review of a selection of countries' written statements prior to the 56th session of the UNSC (March, 2025)...

Lithuania: “... welcomes the ongoing restructuring of the EG-ECCS... updates and methodological reviews undertaken by the EG-ECCS are welcomed, as is the establishment of sub-groups on health and gender... The flexibility to periodically update the terms and definitions used in the Questionnaire to reflect evolving data needs — such as those related to e-waste and food waste — is appreciated. This approach helps maintain the relevance of the Questionnaire and ensures alignment with emerging priorities... commends the focus on supporting national statistical offices (NSOs) and UNFCCC National Focal Points in preparing Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs)... intensify the use of FDES and ESSAT and to share outcomes with the EG-ECCS is very timely and solid... strong support for the application of the Global Set and its implementation tools, such as CISAT and the Implementation Guidelines. These resources provide valuable frameworks for establishing national climate change statistics programs and for reporting under the Paris Agreement. ”

Review of a selection of countries' written statements prior to the 56th session of the UNSC (March, 2025)...

Poland: "... sees a need to **cooperate with other institutions in order to improve the methodology of data collection, coordinate activities and strengthen national statistical systems... supports the updates of definitions and terms while ensuring coherence between the Joint OECD/Eurostat Questionnaire and the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire....** supports initiatives such as the inclusion of climate issues in traditional censuses and surveys."

Republic of Korea: Implementing the **Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators.**

Review of a selection of countries' written statements prior to the 56th session of the UNSC (March, 2025)...

Tanzania: Supports the ongoing restructure... welcomes updates of methodologies... support the strengthening of national data collection and compilation in environment and climate change statistics to better inform policy decisions and to facilitate unified reporting for international data requirements... Tanzania has had a technical committee on environment statistics for many years which, inter alia, coordinates activities in environment statistics... **endorses periodic updates to the Statistics Division/UNEP questionnaire** on environment statistics to meet evolving data demands... **supports the work of adding climate change questions in censuses and surveys** (and did so in its PHC, 2022)... **support both the national statistical offices and national focal points for UNFCCC in the production of climate change statistics to effectively contribute to the preparations for their first biennial transparency reports and related processes under the Paris Agreement... uses the Global Set** and encourages others to do the same... requests the donor community to strengthen efforts towards mobilizing additional substantial resources.”


Review of a selection of countries' written statements prior to the 56th session of the UNSC (March, 2025)...

Tonga: “.... **Supports the Global Set and the subgroup on gender** within the EG-ECCS... would like to contribute its existing work to the subgroup on gender.”


Viet Nam: “promoting close links between ministries... **currently nationalizing the Global Set and FDES.**”

Observations on the EG-ECCS and its tie to the UNSC


Toward countries especially, please feel reassured that from the UNSD side, the comments you may make at the EG-ECCS have potential to impact content put to the UNSC for March, 2026.



The EG-ECCS is a wonderful opportunity for peer review, group consultation, formation of sub-groups on priority topics, etc., prior to material being put to the consideration of the UNSC.



Following that, NSOs around the world (in particular Chief Statisticians and leadership teams of NSOs) can consider the work, and then support and endorse it (or critique it).



Once UNSC has mandated a body of work (e.g. the Global Set, CISAT, the FDES, data collection on waste and water, etc.), its impact can be felt worldwide, within and beyond NSOs.

Thank you for your attention!

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