



Current round of the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics and supporting evolving policy demands

Environment Statistics Section
United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

Prepared for twelfth meeting of the Expert Group on
Environment and Climate Change Statistics (EG-ECCS)

23-25 September 2025



Outline

- 1. History and context of the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics**
- 2. Comments on responses to date on the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics - 2024**
- 3. Policy demands attempting to be served**
- 4. Considerations for formats of dissemination of countries' data**



1. UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics

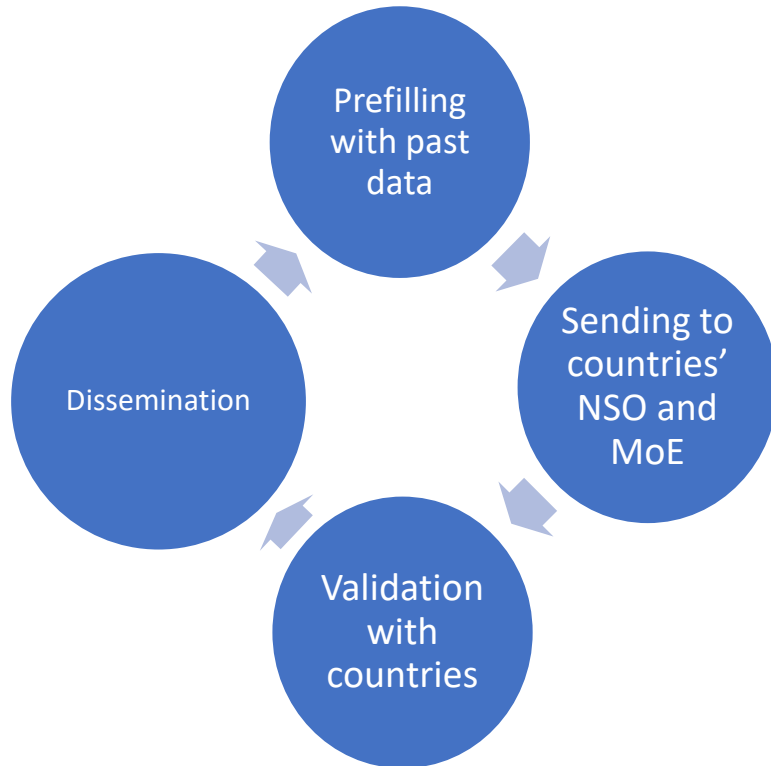
- Since 1999, UNSD has completed 11 data collections on water and waste data (usually biennially) from about 160-170 UN member states. Mandated by UNSC 28th session (1995); reinforced at 34th session (2003) **and 56th session (2025)**.

The Statistical Commission:

*Urged countries to **strengthen national data collection and compilation** in environment and climate change statistics **to better inform policy decisions and international reporting**, including on the Statistics Division/United National Environment Programme questionnaire on environment statistics;*

*Supported **periodic updates to the terms and definitions** used in the Statistics Division/United National Environment Programme questionnaire and **accommodating emerging topics, such as e-waste and food waste**.*

1. UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics



- [Questionnaires](#) are sent to National Statistical Offices and Ministries of Environment.
- Questionnaires are not sent to Eurostat and OECD members and candidate members. 170+ member states in previous years; about 167 member states in the 2024 collection cycle
- Response rate typically hovers around 50% (2018: 52%; 2020: 46%; 2022: approx. 50%).
- No imputation, no estimation. Food waste variables collected in 2024 for the first time.
- The current data collection (2024) is the 12th one. Questionnaires were sent to countries in October, 2024. Grateful to 68 member states who have provided responses to this cycle.

UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics: disseminated outputs

Outputs	Description
UNSD environmental indicators https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/qindicators	Time series, or most recently available data for selected variables provided by countries. Disseminated after completion of collection cycle.
Country files https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/country_files	Individual country data on water and waste. Disseminated periodically during collection cycle. Demand from key users to view Country files as soon as possible.
Country snapshots: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/snapshots/	Individual country data spanning many environmental themes.
Tailored queries	Per solicitation from key users (often World Health Organization, UN Environment Programme, UN-HABITAT, UN Institute for Training and Research, academia).
United Nations SDG Database https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal	Country data sourced from the Questionnaire published alongside country data from other sources
Undata https://data.un.org/Default.aspx	Web-based data service for the global user community



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United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and United Nations Environment Programme QUESTIONNAIRE 2024 ON ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

Section: WATER

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Guidance	Introduction, Steps to Follow, Description of Tables and Conversion
Definitions	List of Definitions
Table W1	Renewable Freshwater Resources
Table W2	Freshwater Abstraction and Use
Table W3	Water Supply Industry (ISIC 36)
Table W4	Wastewater Generation and Treatment
Table W5	Population Connected to Wastewater Treatment
Table W6	Supplementary Information Sheet

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United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and United Nations Environment Programme
QUESTIONNAIRE 2024 ON ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

Section: WASTE

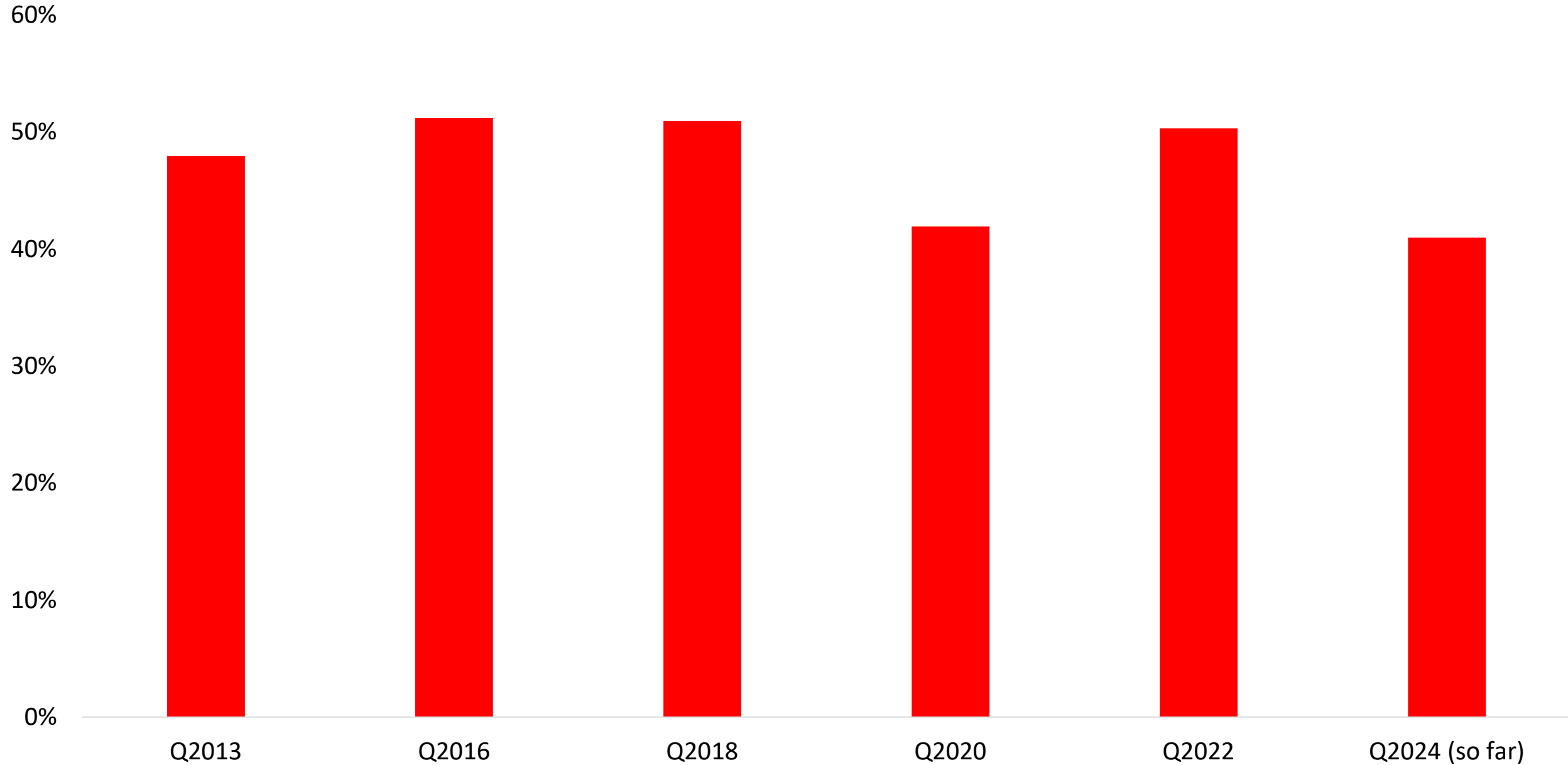
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Guidance	Introduction, Steps to Follow, Description of Tables
Definitions	List of Definitions
Table R1	Generation of Waste by Source
Table R2	Management of Hazardous Waste
Table R3	Management of Municipal Waste
Table R4	Composition of Municipal Waste
Table R5	Management of Municipal Waste — City Data
Table R6	Electronic Waste Generation and Collection
Table R7	Food Waste Generation
Table R8	Supplementary Information Sheet

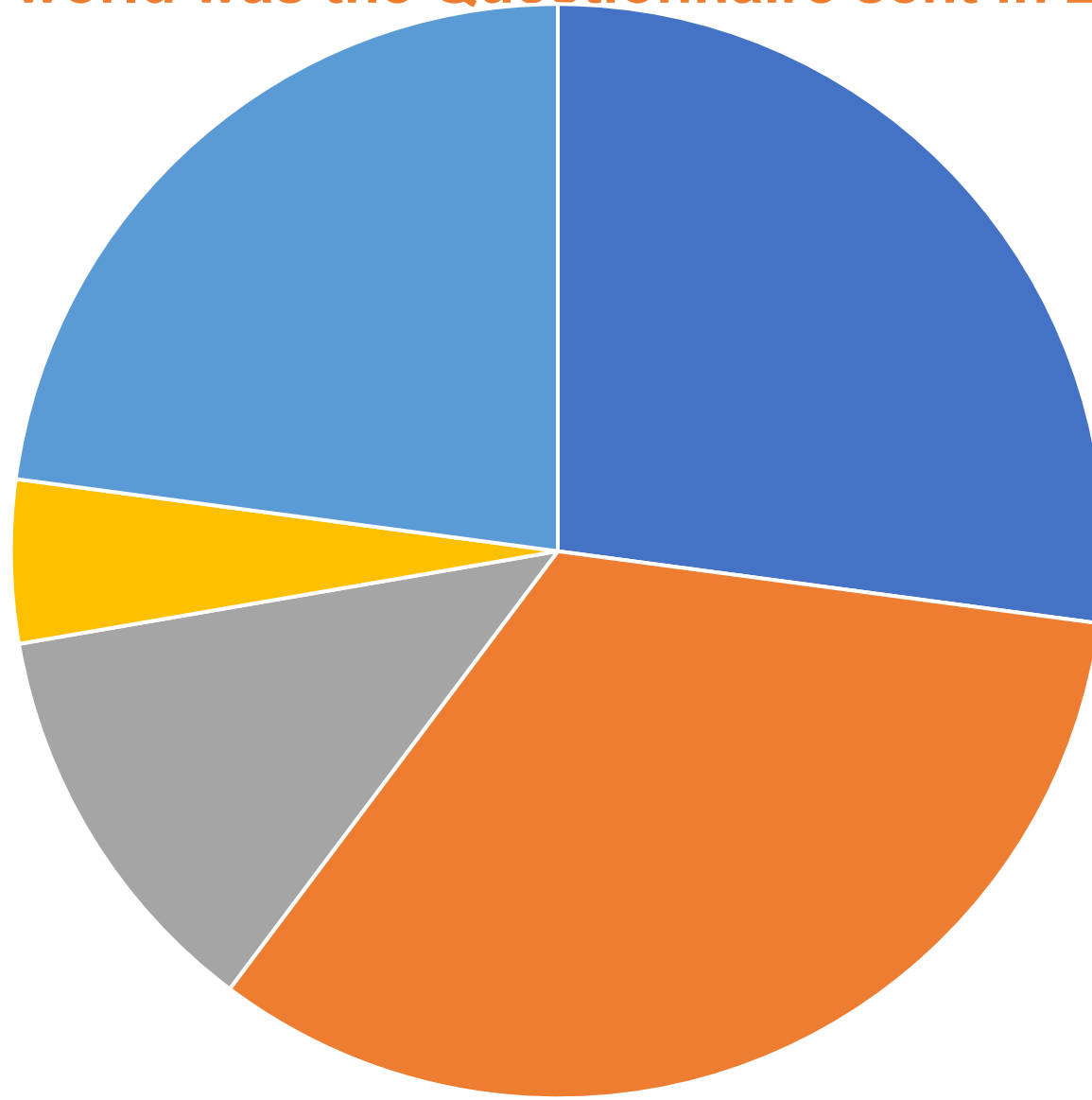
2. Comments on responses the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics - 2024

- Only at about a 41% response rate so far (68/166 responses) as of today.
- Nonetheless, database on water and waste statistics housed by UNSD continues to grow, and with it:
 - (i) the institutional strength of UNSD to conduct this data collection exercise; and
 - (ii) An evidence-base to feed into policy decisions concerning waste, water, climate change, environment, sustainable development, circular economy, etc.
- When new material is added, response rates have not been so high in the first collection cycle (food waste).
- The questionnaire content is continually adapted to capture evolving environmental concerns and priorities (food waste and e-waste).

Response rates to recent Questionnaire cycles

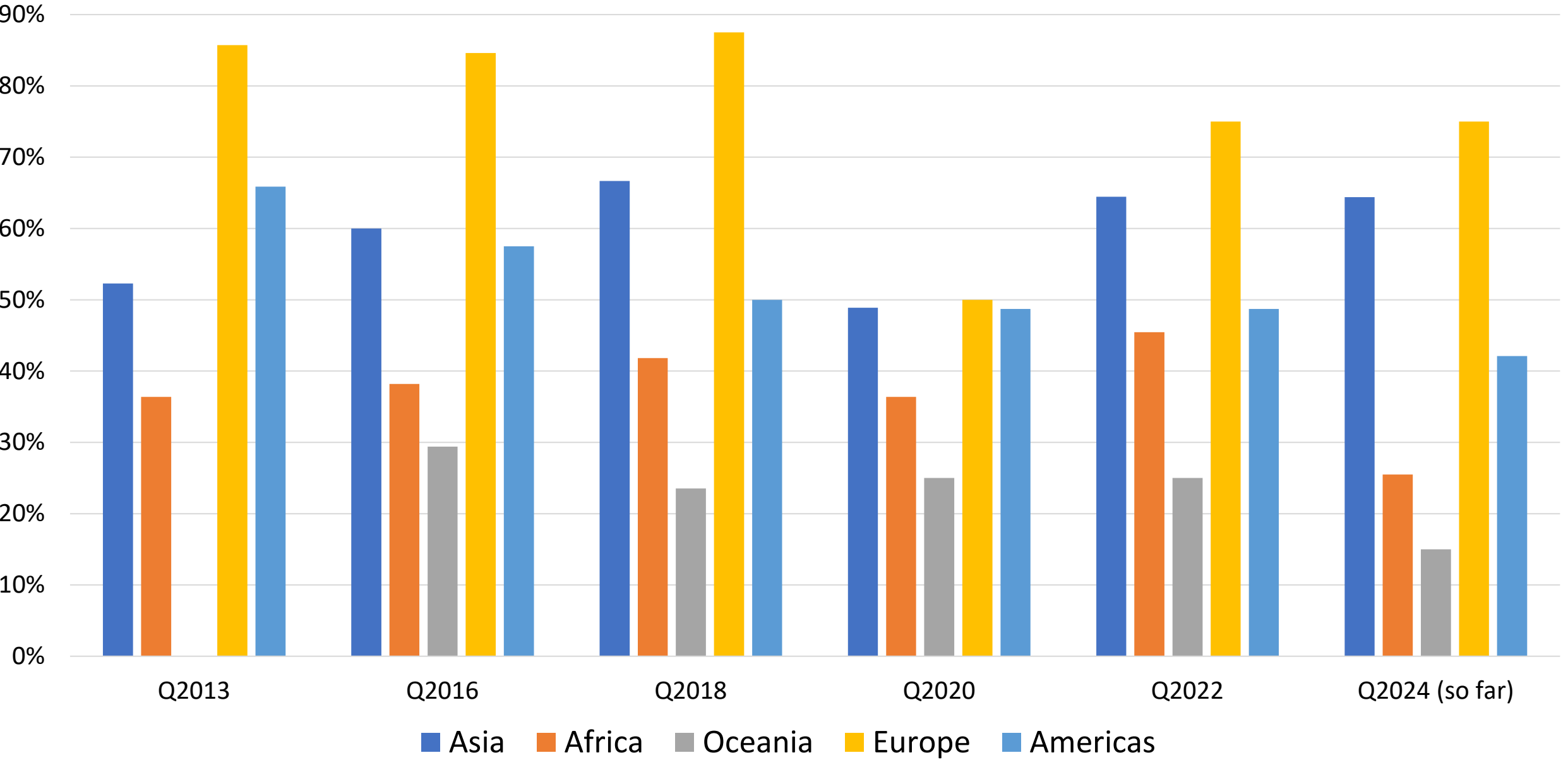


To which regions of the world was the Questionnaire sent in 2024?



■ Asia (45) ■ Africa (55) ■ Oceania (20) ■ Europe (8) ■ Americas (38)

Questionnaire cycle response rates by M49 region



3. Policy demands on the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire

- Informing policy decisions on a variety of themes based on robust and up-to-date environment statistics.
- Support for Sustainable Development Goal indicators.
- Supporting countries' compilation of compendia on environment and climate change statistics (and applying the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics; the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators).
- Various policy frameworks (circular economy, Net Zero, System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, etc.)
- Data supports requirements for International treaties such as Basel Convention (hazardous waste)
- Promote and strengthen transparency in environmental data reporting by governments.



Progress on the proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated
 Mid-term status of SDG Indicator 6.3.1 and acceleration needs, with a special focus on climate change, wastewater reuse and health



[Progress on 6.3.1, UN WATER](#)

World Bank, 2018



Published by World Bank Group



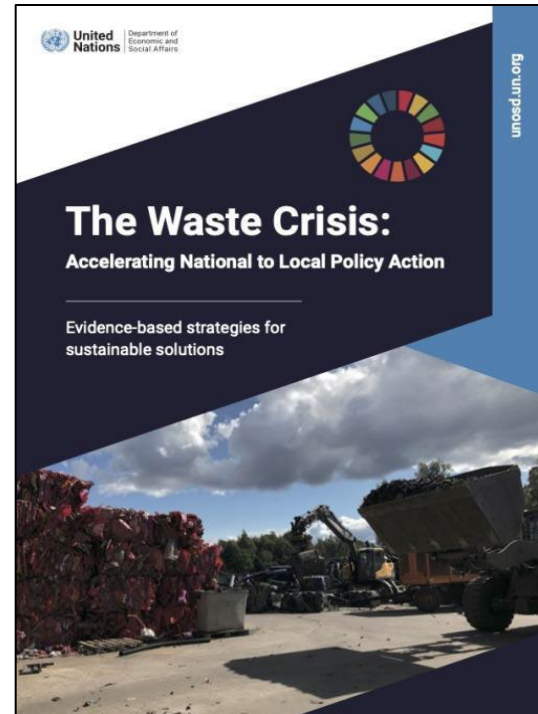
Published by UNEP, February 2024.



Published by UNITAR, 2024.



Published by UNEP, 2024.



Published by UNOSD, DESA, 2024.

4. Considerations for formats of dissemination of countries' data

- 100% of all data (and associated footnotes) are made public as all country responses are made available as [Country Files](#) (Excel files available online).
- [UNSD Environmental Indicators](#) are Excel files which are typically time series of an individual variable or proportion of two variables for all countries with data. E.g. Renewable freshwater resources per capita; Municipal waste collected; Percentage of municipal waste collected which is recycled.

Percentage of Municipal Collected which is Recycled

CountryID	Country	Source	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
152	Chile	O	0.32	0.32	1.35	0.45	...	...	...
344	China, Hong Kong	U	35.41	33.55	31.85	29.89	28.88	...	...
446	China, Macao Spe	U	0.76					...	...
188	Costa Rica	O	0.94	3.28	7.91	3.66	2.96	3.12	3.95
191	Croatia	O	16.32	19.17	21.33	22.51	26.71	24.34	26.43
192	Cuba	U	3.62	6.78	5.47	4.82	3.39	5.91	...
531	Curaçao	U	31.24	11.89	8.20	...	...	...	...
203	Czechia	E	25.50	26.76	21.90	22.03	22.01	27.57	30.63
208	Denmark	E	29.03	29.87	28.81	32.34	33.54	25.59	11.65
212	Dominica	U	5.00	5.00	...	...	...	...	...
233	Estonia	E	24.74	25.30	24.71	24.30	28.37	26.13	27.05
246	Finland	E	28.12	29.19	27.42	29.14	29.33	28.99	24.61
250	France	E	22.73	21.66	21.90	21.29	21.84	23.36	25.32
254	French Guiana	U	6.44	6.34	6.23	5.14	4.09	...	...
258	French Polynesia	U	0.30	...	...	...	...	...	...
276	Germany	E	48.73	48.79	48.96	49.15	48.00	46.72	46.60

4. Considerations for formats of dissemination of countries' data

- [Country Snapshots](#) give summary statistics on a variety of themes (e.g. air and climate, biodiversity, energy, land and agriculture, waste, water) one country at a time.



Air and climate

Emissions of:		Year
SO ₂ (1000t)	19	2017
SO ₂ per capita (kg)	5	2017
NO _x (1000t)	55	2017
NO _x per capita (kg)	15	2017
CO ₂ (million tonnes)	10	2017
CO ₂ per capita (tonnes)	3	2017
GHG (million tonnes CO ₂ eq.)	17	2017
GHG per capita (tonnes CO ₂ eq.)	5	2017

Biodiversity

Average proportion of Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas covered by protected areas (%)	42	2022
Number of threatened species	134	2023
Fish catch (tonnes)	197,788	2022
Change in fish catch from previous year (%)	0	2022

Economy

GDP growth rate from previous year (%)	10	2022
GDP per capita (at current prices - \$US)	6,571	2022
% Value added: agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing	3	2022
% Value added: mining, manufacturing, utilities	15	2022

Energy

Total energy supply (PJ)	221	2021
Energy supply per capita (GJ)	59	2021
Energy use intensity (MJ per USD constant 2011 PPP GDP)	4	2021
Renewable electricity production (%)	76	2019

Land and agriculture

Total area (sq km)	69,700 ¹	2021
Agricultural land (sq km)	23,799	2021
Arable land (% of agric. land)	13	2021
Permanent crops (% of agric. land)	5	2021



Note: The boundaries, the names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Permanent meadows and pastures (% of agric. land)	82	2021
Change in agricultural land area since 1990 (%)	...	2021
Forest area (sq km)	2,822 ²	2021
Change in forest area since 1990 (%)	...	2021

Population

Population (1000)	3,763	2021
Population growth rate from previous year (%)	0	2021

Waste

Total population served by municipal waste collection (%)	89	2021
Municipal waste collected (1000t)	...	
Hazardous waste generated per capita (kg)	...	
Proportion of hazardous waste treated or disposed (%)	...	
Proportion of municipal waste recycled (%)	...	

Water and sanitation

Renewable freshwater resources per capita (m ³)	14,946	2021
Proportion of wastewater treated (%)	58 ³	2000
Proportion of freshwater abstracted (%)	4	2021

4. Considerations for formats of dissemination of countries' data

- Toward key users of the data, and toward countries whose data are disseminated individually and alongside other countries, how do you see the methods of dissemination of the waste and water data?
- For now, a public-facing database (or online information system) seems out of reach, but what other ways could UNSD disseminate country data to better serve countries, and key users?
- If emphasis is to be put upon infographics, charts, maps, etc., could data be disseminated in line with key products and demands (e.g. FDES, Global Set)?



Thank You!

UNSD Environment Statistics Section
Website: unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats
Email: envstats@un.org

