

Notes for Lucinda's welcome to UN Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics, 23-25 September 2025

Where: Conference suite, 1st floor, 10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf

When: Tues 23 Sept – opening session 10:00 to 10:40

Tuesday, 23 September 2025

Registration etc.

09:00 – 10:00

Opening session

10:00 – 10:40 | **Opening and objectives of the meeting**

Logistical matters (UK, 5 min)

Welcome speech by UNSD (5 min)

Welcome speeches by UK (UK-ONS, 10 min; UK-HSA, 10 min)

Adoption of the agenda (Chair, 10 min)

For info: As of 11/9 there are 48 delegates in person and 92 online.

- I am delighted and honoured to welcome delegates to London for this 12th meeting of the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics, on behalf of the Office for National Statistics and our colleagues across the UK Government Statistical Service. It's great to see that experts from more than 45 countries and 20 international or regional institutions are taking part, many of them here in person as well as others virtually.
- We at ONS are grateful to the United Nations Environment Statistics team for their part in the efficient organisation of this important meeting, the UK Health Security Agency for arranging the use of this conference facility, and of course the Wellcome Trust for helping us fund the travel of a substantial number of the in-person delegates.
- The United Nations is one of the highest priority international partners for ONS, reflecting the UK government's strong ongoing commitment to the multilateral system. The UN plays a significant role in the creation of global statistical standards and is a vehicle for international cooperation that continues to have relevance globally. Importantly, statistics within the UN – via the UN Statistics Division and other similar vehicles – remains a truly collegiate working space where NSOs and other partners work for the common good.

- Environment and climate statistics are produced by a wide range of central and devolved government bodies across the UK's Government Statistics Service, or GSS. These include three different measures of greenhouse gas emissions – territorial, residential or production, and consumption, and also a wide range of net zero and also increasingly adaptation metrics.
- A new annual work plan for the Government Statistical Service environment, nature and climate theme coming out shortly will demonstrate all this work and provide a forward look at future developments. Recent highlights over the last few months include our contributions to the revision of the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework, and our collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa to assist countries with natural capital accounting.
- We have also continued to develop new measures, such as data on 'access to blue space in England' which have been published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. A factsheet on 'low carbon technologies in English homes' based on survey data has been released by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. These examples illustrate the commitment across government to improving statistics on the environment, nature and climate.
- We are proud of our work on the Standards for Official Statistics on Climate-Health Interactions project – SOSCHI for short – which will be reporting in the session on health this afternoon. SOSCHI is a collaboration with global partners including the NSOs of Ghana and Rwanda, so I'm especially pleased that a delegate from the Ghana Statistical Service has been able to attend this meeting.
- The SOSCHI team is developing indicator methods which are being proposed, with the help of the climate and health sub-group of the EG-ECCS, for the endorsement of this meeting to be included in the forthcoming revision of the Global Set, which will be subject to formal consultation with the Member States. These indicators fill an important gap in the Global Set of concrete methodologies for measuring the health impacts of climate change. We have been lucky to be able to draw on advice from many of the leading scientific experts on climate change impacts to help formulate these methodologies.
- The discussions of the climate and health sub-group, and some of the other activities that the UN Environment Statistics team have led since the 11th meeting of the EG-ECCS, have highlighted the importance of building up technical capacity and improving data availability in many countries. ONS values its record of contributing to capacity-building through peer networking and partnerships at both national and regional levels, especially across Africa.
- I wish you well with all the deliberations in this three-day meeting. I hope you enjoy your time in London and manage to try a few of the local restaurants or get some shopping done! Again, welcome and thank you from ONS.