

Twelfth meeting of the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics (EG-ECCS) (23-25 September 2025)

Opening remarks, Shantanu Mukherjee, Acting Director, UNSD

(Tuesday, 23 September 2025, 10 am)

Esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen

I am delighted to welcome you to the twelfth meeting of the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics.

We are very grateful to the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics and the Wellcome Trust who graciously provided the financial support to host this meeting.

It has been a while since the last in-person meeting, and while the Expert Group has achieved much in that time, I know that those of you who are here are happy to be able to discuss the important topics of environment and climate change statistics in person.

I would also like to thank the many participants who will contribute virtually.

This gathering brings together a distinct community of environmental and climate change statisticians – from over 40 countries, across all regions, as well as from 27 international and regional agencies.

One of the objectives of this meeting is the adoption of the revised terms of reference for the Expert Group, which have been circulated already.

My colleague Reena Shah, who leads this work in the UN Statistics Division, will discuss this further, along with a proposal for managing this work.

Colleagues, allow me to take a moment to recognize the excellent outcomes this group has already achieved.

The Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics, adopted in 2013 by the Statistical Commission, plays a vital role in guiding countries in the implementation of environment statistics programmes.

More recently, the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators was adopted in 2022 by the Commission. As you know, the Global Set helps countries to implement their own set of climate change statistics and indicators.

Following the adoption of this norm, focus has moved towards its implementation, supported by the Implementation Guidelines and the Climate Change Statistics Self-Assessment Tool.

We are also supporting actual data collection work via the development of Climate Change Questions for Censuses and Surveys, and Big Data for Climate Change Statistics.

We will hear from UNFCCC about recent developments on reporting that have taken place, in particular regarding the first cycle of Biennial Transparency Reports, and how the Global Set can contribute overall to the reporting requirements of countries under the Enhanced Transparency Framework and the Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement.

My thanks to UNFCCC, for their close collaboration with us, which is further strengthened as we focus jointly on the implementation of the Global Set.

I must recognize also the shared commitments of many other partners in developing this norm, and advancing its implementation at the country level.

Among our collaborators here are UNEP, UNDRR, FAO, OECD, WHO, Paris21, UN Women, Regional Commissions, and regional organizations such as COMESA, CARICOM and the Pacific Community.

And I would be remiss if I did not thank the Chair of this expert group, Dr. Ruth Minja, Director for Population Census and Social Statistics Directorate, National Bureau of Statistics of Tanzania and Ms. Anjali Kisoensingh, General Bureau of Statistics, Suriname, the Vice-Chair; along with the Chairs of the two Subgroups on Climate and Health, and on Climate Change Questions for Censuses and Surveys.

As we move forward with the implementation of the Global Set, we are also aware that continual improvements in methods and data availability can feed into a review of the norm itself. We are far from such a revision, but you will hear

about some of the exciting advances we are making in areas such as health, gender and disasters.

Ladies and gentlemen

Let us use this meeting to exchange knowledge, strengthen capacities and commit to stronger collaboration.

High quality environment and climate change statistics are essential for making informed decisions at national and international levels and we look to you, our experts and partners, to continue to work with us to help meet this ever expanding need of the global community.

I wish you a successful meeting.

Thank you.