Updates on UNECE work in climate change-related statistics

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Content

Background

Recent work

Next steps

Content

UNECE

Background

Recent work

Next steps

UNECE and Conference of European Statisticians (CES)

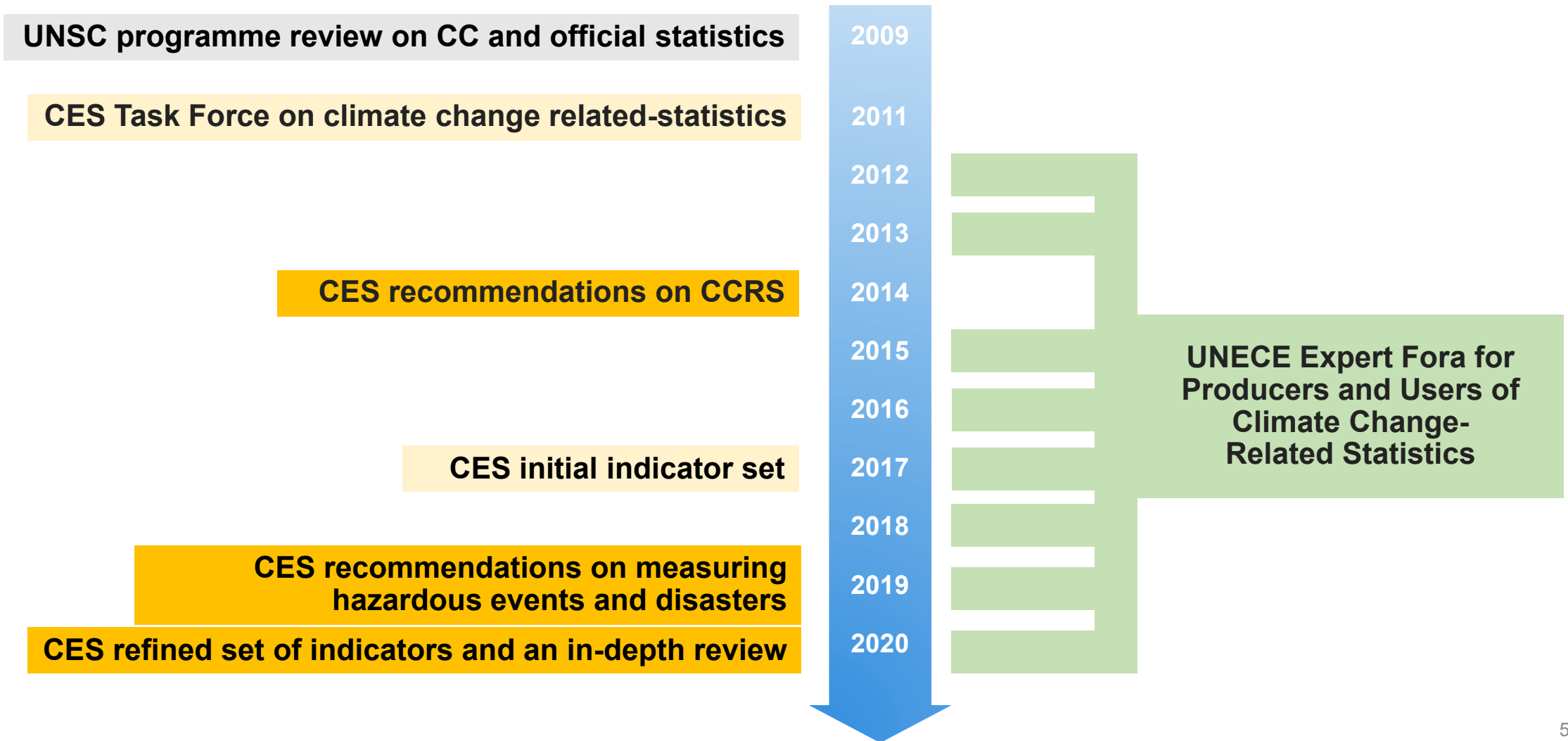## United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

- One of five UN **regional commissions**
- Includes **56 member States** in Europe, North America and Asia
- Part of the **UN Secretariat**

Conference of European Statisticians (CES)

- **One of the oldest international bodies** on statistics
- Founded in 1953; stems from the first Conference of Statistics held under the League of Nations in 1928
- **Steered by the CES Bureau**, composed of Chief Statisticians from 8 countries and 6 international organizations
- In 1991 developed and adopted the **Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**

UNECE work on climate change

UNSC programme review on CC and official statistics — 2009

CES Task Force on climate change related-statistics — 2011

2012

2013

CES recommendations on CCRS — 2014

2015

UNECE Expert Fora for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics

2016

CES initial indicator set — 2017

2018

CES recommendations on measuring hazardous events and disasters — 2019

CES refined set of indicators and an in-depth review — 2020

CES' Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics
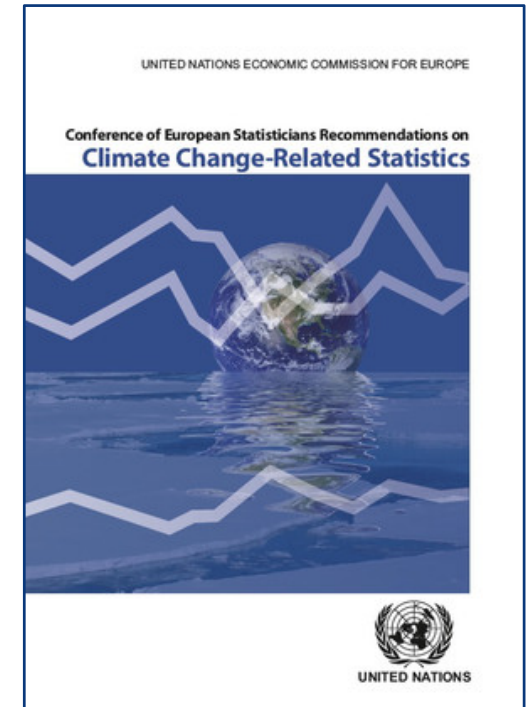
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Developed by a dedicated Task Force

- **Task Force on Climate Change-Related Statistics**: Canada (Chair), Finland, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Qatar, the United Kingdom and international organizations (e.g., EEA, Eurostat, DG Clima, IPCC, FAO, UNFCCC and the WMO) established by the CES Bureau in 2011

Objectives

- To improve the **contribution of the statistical community** to the work on **GHG reporting** under the Kyoto Protocol
- To **improve existing official statistics** for the purposes of climate change analysis building on the **key competencies of official statisticians**
- Focused on data relevant for climate change analysis but **not scientific or meteorological data**

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations on
Climate Change-Related Statistics

UNITED NATIONS

Endorsed in 2014 by more than 60 countries and international organizations.

Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics

Members

- **National statistical offices** of Luxembourg (Chair), Canada, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Sweden and United Kingdom
- European Environment Agency, Eurostat, FAO, International Energy Agency, UNFCCC Secretariat and Midsummer Analytics

Main activities

- **Guiding the activities** in climate change-related statistics under the Conference of European Statisticians (CES)
- Overseeing **methodological work**
- **Sharing good practices** and improving coherence of GHG inventories and official statistics
- **Collaborating with international organizations** active in measuring climate change
- Identifying areas for **further work**

Link to the wiki with good practices in CCRS

Content

Background

Recent work

Next steps

Methodological work

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Climate Change Related Indicators

- Task Force led by Italy
- Initial **core indicator set** endorsed in 2017
- **Final output endorsed by more than 60 CES member countries in 2020:**
  - A refined indicator set
  - Metadata sheets
  - **Contextual indicators** and possible **disaggregation variables**
  - **Implementation guidelines**

White cover version available on the UNECE webpage

Hazardous events and disasters

- Task Force led by Italy
- In collaboration with ESCAP to align to Disaster-related Statistics Framework
- Provides **guidance on the role of official statistics in measuring hazardous events and disasters**
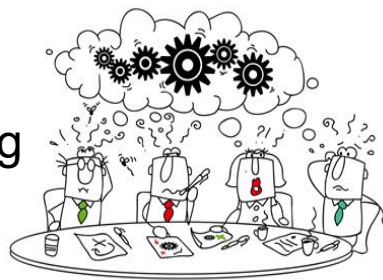- **Final output endorsed by more than 60 CES member countries in 2019**

Published in March 2020

2020 Expert Forum for Producers and Users of CCRS

UNECE

8th **Expert Forum since 2011**

a **platform** for sharing **experience**, discussing concepts and **measurement issues**, and identifying areas for practical guidance

113 participants

from 33 countries

and 24 organizations

4 virtual sessions and 23 presenters

- **Setting the scene**
- Measuring climate change **adaptation**
- **Role** of the statistical community **in climate action**
- Linkages between **climate change**, **wealth** and well being

Organized by the CES **Steering Group on Climate Change Related Statistics**

All documents available on the meeting website in English and Russian

Selected conclusions of the 2020 Expert Forum

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Session 1: Setting the scene

- NSOs should continue to be **involved in reporting on GHG inventories** and can contribute to other elements of **enhanced transparency framework** under the Paris Agreement: **tracking progress on NDCs**, producing information on support, **climate change impacts** and **climate change adaptation**.

- NSOs should consider **developing national climate change-related indicator sets** following the CES Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics and the UNSD indicator set.

Session 2: Measuring climate change adaptation

- **Adaptation indicators are context-, country- and region-specific**, and it is not possible to have a full, common indicator set for all countries. Still, the CES and UNSD indicator sets **can help NSOs to start providing some minimum information** and improve the knowledge.

- Many NSOs undertake or plan activities related to climate change adaptation. **Important challenges: lack of statistically operational definitions, conceptual difficulties and data gaps**.

- The statistical community should use the **improvements on concepts and definitions** achieved by policy and research communities.

Selected conclusions of the 2020 Expert Forum - cntd.

UNECE

Session 3: Role of the statistical community in climate action

- **Official statistics should be used more in climate action and energy transition policies**. It is important to **inform the public and increase understanding of climate change drivers and mitigation efforts**. Producing quarterly emissions can be useful for this purpose.

- **NSOs should have roadmaps** to developing climate change-related statistics **and set priorities**, taking into account the *CES Recommendations* and the recent in-depth review on the role of statistical community in climate action. **Good practices** should be shared on the wiki platform.

Session 4: Linkages between climate change, wealth and well-being

- Measuring **comprehensive wealth** can show how sustainable development of countries is as opposed to development relying on **depletion of assets, including natural capital**. This approach can help **illustrate impact of climate change on the value of all national assets** or **allocate emissions** based on **where products and services are consumed** or **where damage occurs**.

- National statistical offices can work towards producing wealth measures, **starting from building SEEA accounts piece-by-piece**.

Next Expert Forum coming in autumn 2021!

In-depth review of the role of the statistical community in climate action

Process

- Paper prepared by the Steering Group with inputs from the 2019 Expert Forum
- In-depth review by the CES Bureau in February 2020
- **Outcomes consulted with all CES members and endorsed by the CES plenary in June 2020**

Conclusions

- Statistical community has to **engage much more actively** in providing data for climate action
- Work on the **implementation of the CES Recommendations must continue**
- NSOs can propose to **include the topic of climate change in the statistical programmes**
- NSOs could do more to improve the **data timeliness and frequency**
- **Resources are scarce,** so the statistical community should focus **where it can bring most value**
- Common thinking on the challenging areas is needed, for example on **measuring climate change adaptation**
- Statistical community needs to **communicate more directly with users and engage more closely with research organizations**

Link to the paper

Content

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Follow-up to the conclusions of the in-depth review

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Make the statistical community more visible

- Explore the possibility of **a side event at COP26**
- Produce a paper on the **use of official statistics in the processes related to the Paris Agreement**

Improve experience sharing and highlight the ongoing efforts

- Strengthen collection and dissemination of countries' **best practices and innovations**
- Collect and share existing **national indicator sets** on the wiki

Focus on key areas

- Measure **green recovery** and support/promote producing **quarterly emissions**
- Support activities on **measuring adaptation**
- Follow the developments related to statistics on **green finance and green investment**

Strengthen the engagement with research organizations

Link to the detailed description

Thank you!

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11 November 2020

Key CES resources

- **CES Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics (2014)**

- **How national statistical offices can support greenhouse gas inventories? (2015**

- **Making the case for greater involvement of national statistical offices in measuring climate-change related statistics (2016)**

- **Report on countries' progress in climate change-related statistics (2017)**

- **Tool for countries to prioritize action to improve climate data (2015 and updated in 2017)**

- **Road maps to improve climate change-related statistics (2017)**

- **Wiki on good practices on climate change-related statistics (ongoing, since 2017)**

- **What do national statistical offices need to know about GHG inventories? (2018)**

- **CES Recommendations on the role of official statistics in measuring hazardous events and disasters (2019)**

- **Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics Using SEEA (Version 2.0), implementation guidelines and indicator metadata sheets (white cover versions before final editing) (2020)**

- **In-depth review on the role of the statistical community in climate action (2020) [short version in Russian]**