Climate change statistics at the global level

Outcomes of COP24 in Katowice - the possible implications for climate change statistics

Side Event at the 50th session of the Statistical Commission

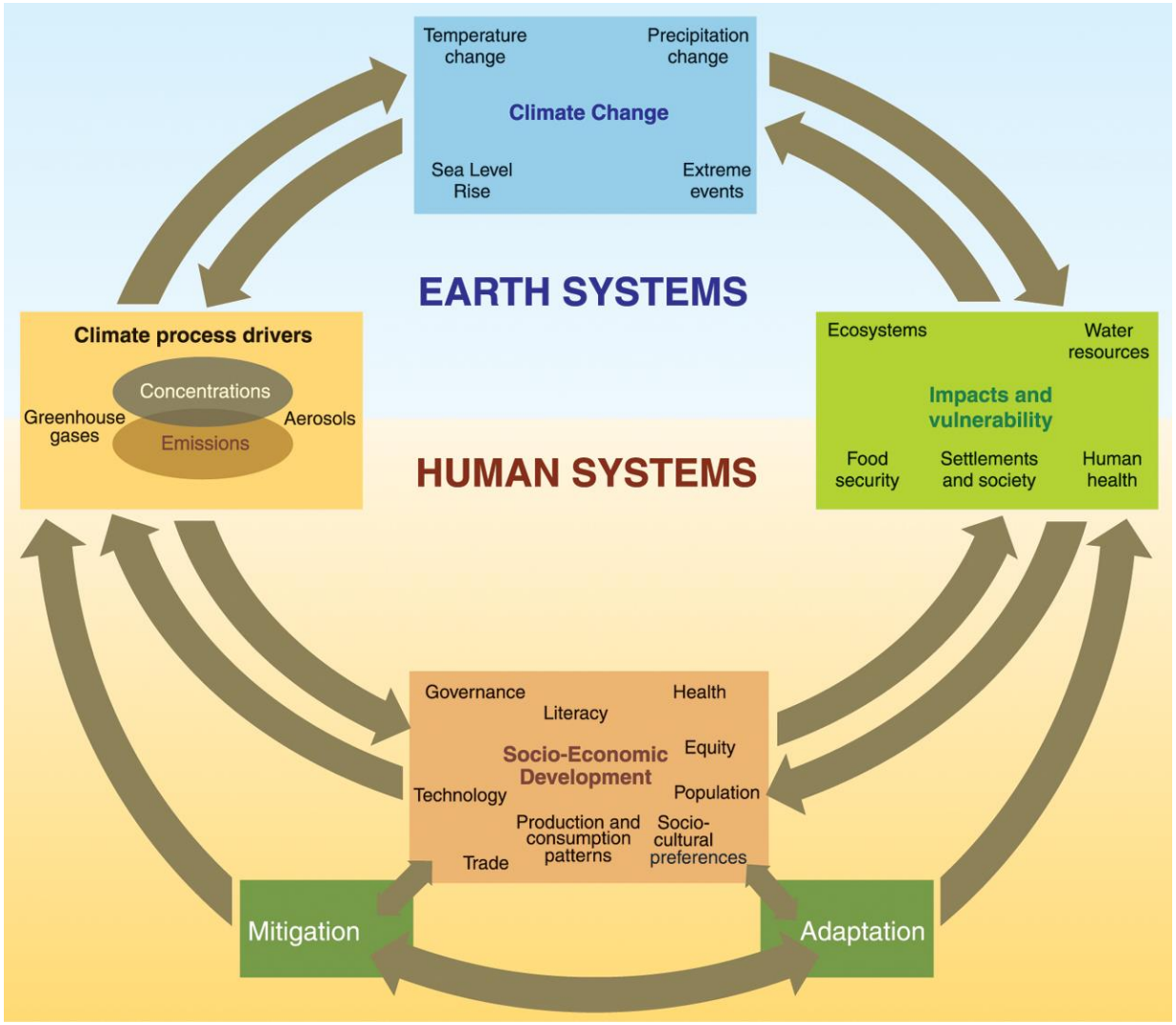
(Environment Statistics Section, UNSD)

(New York, 7 March 2019)

UNSD past activities

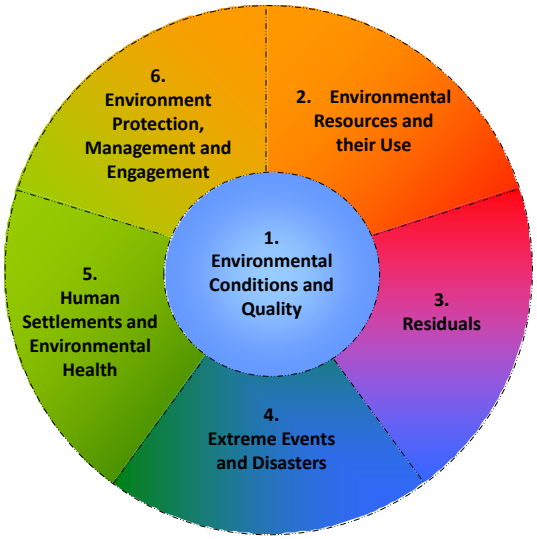
- At the Statistical Commission in 2009 a programme review on climate change and official statistics carried out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics was presented.
  - Specify how official statistics may be used for climate change measurement and analysis
  - Identify recommendations and actions to mainstream the climate change aspect in official statistics
- UNSD Conferences on climate change and official statistics
  - Oslo, 14-16 April 2008 (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/climate_change/default.htm)
  - Seoul, 11-12 December 2008 (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/climate_change/Korea/default.htm)
- No follow-up to the programme review was asked by the Statistical Commission in 2009.

IPCC Framework



IPCC, 2007, Fourth Assessment Report

FDES & climate change statistics



- FDES cross-cutting application (Chapter 5) links climate change and environment statistics based on IPCC Framework (4th report in 2007)
- Integrating official statistics for climate change monitoring

Climate Process Drivers

Sub-component 1.3: Environmental Quality	Sub-component 3.1: Emissions to Air
1.3.1 Air quality	3.1.1 Emissions of greenhouse gases 3.1.2 Consumption of ozone depleting substances

Climate Change Evidence

Sub-comp. 1.1: Physical Conditions	Sub-comp. 4.1: Natural Extreme Events and Disasters
1.1.1 Atmosphere, climate and weather 1.1.2 Hydrographical characteristics	4.1.1 Occurrence of natural extreme events and disasters

Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerability

Sub-comp. 1.1: Physical Conditions	Sub-comp. 1.2: Land Cover, Ecosystems and Biodiversity	Sub-comp. 1.3: Environmental Quality	Sub-comp. 2.3: Land	Sub-comp. 4.1: Natural Extreme Events and Disasters	Sub-comp. 5.1: Human Settlements	Sub-comp. 5.2: Environmental Health
1.1.2 Hydrographical characteristics 1.1.4 Soil characteristics	1.2.1 Land cover 1.2.2 Ecosystems and biodiversity 1.2.3 Forests	1.3.3 Marine water quality	2.3.1 Land use	4.1.2 Impact of natural extreme events and disasters	5.1.3 Housing conditions	5.2.3 Vector-borne diseases 5.2.4 Health problems associated with excessive UV radiation exposure

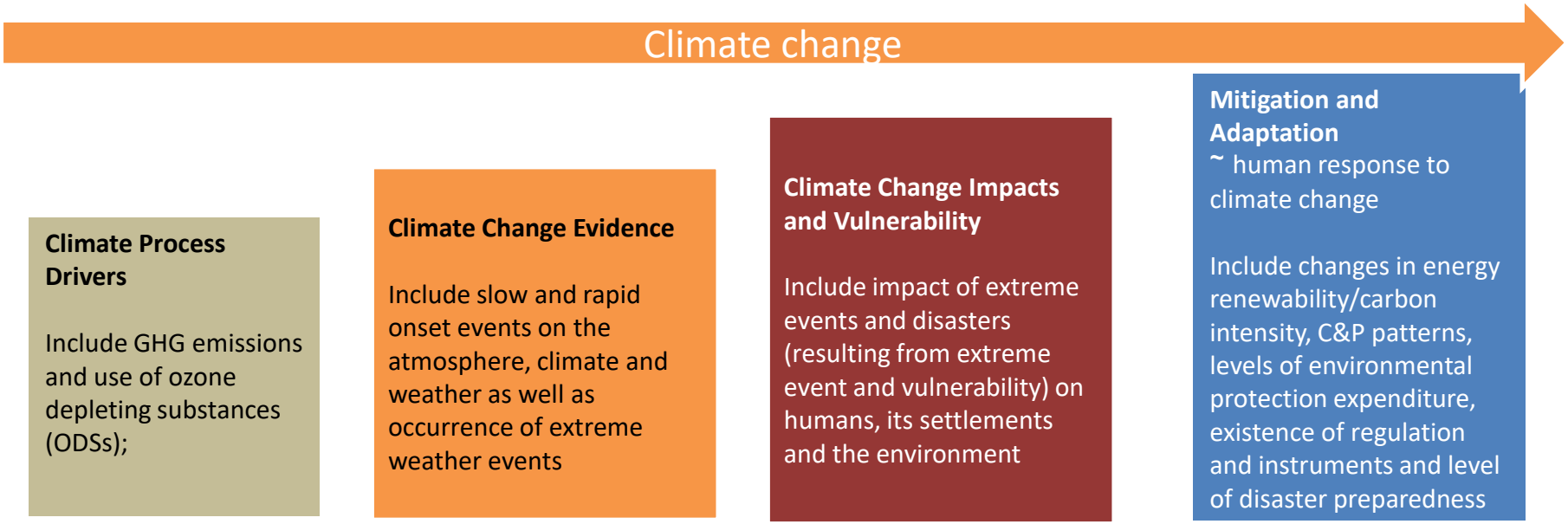
Mitigation and Adaptation

Sub-comp. 2.2: Energy Resources	Sub-comp. 6.1: Environmental Protection and Resource Management Expenditure	Sub-comp. 6.2: Environmental Governance and Regulation	Sub-comp. 6.3: Extreme Ever Preparedness and Disaster Management
2.2.2 Production, trade and consumption of energy	6.1.1 Government environmental protection and resource management expenditure 6.1.2 Corporate, non-profit institution and household environmental protection and resource management expenditure	6.2.2 Environmental regulation and instruments 6.2.3 Participation in MEAs and environmental conventions	6.3.1 Preparedness for natural extreme events and disasters

IPCC sequence of climate change

The IPCC Framework (4th report in 2007) was the basis upon which the stages of the sequence of climate change were constructed to substantiate the application of the FDES to climate change statistics.

The FDES application to climate change statistics identifies the components, topics and individual statistics that are needed to inform about each of the stages of the sequence of climate change:



State of statistics and guidance

- **Climate process drivers** - statistics relatively more available.
  - Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions transform into global concentrations.
- **Climate change evidence** - statistics relatively more available.
  - Temperature and precipitation are available over long periods of time.
- **Climate change impacts** and **vulnerability** - some statistics are produced on impacts but more are needed. For vulnerability, need to develop methodologies and capacity.
  - Emerging data needs: Extreme climate-related meteorological events and natural disasters increase in frequency and intensity.
- **Mitigation** and **adaptation** statistics are less often produced and more difficult to capture statistically.
  - Insufficient resources for measurement and lack of guidance.
  - Adaptation statistics, while may be produced for particular sectors, need to be linked to climate change statistics.

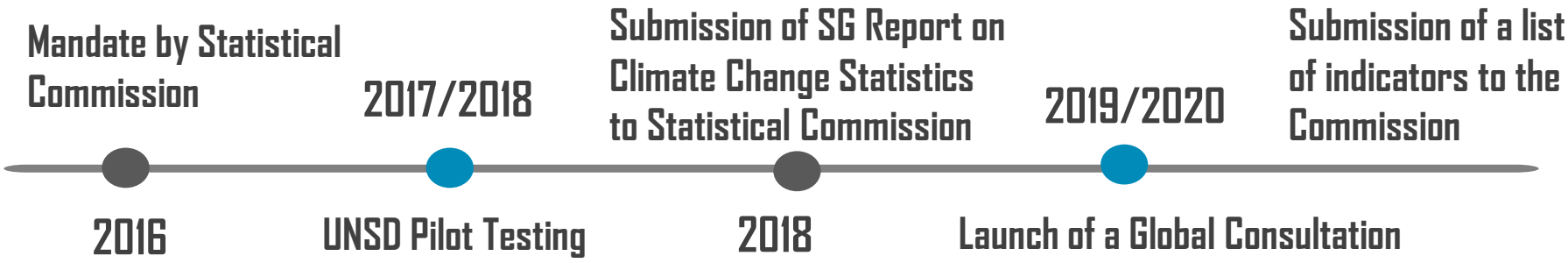
Report of the Secretary-General on Climate Change Statistics to the 47th session of the Statistical Commission

UNSD, in collaboration with UN-ECE, prepared the Report of the Secretary-General on Climate Change Statistics to the 47th session of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2016/15) (New York, 8-10 March 2016).
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/climatechange_docs_conf.html

Decision 47/112:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/Report-on-the-47th-session-of-the-statistical-commission-E.pdf

Main decisions:
For countries: Use the FDES 2013 to guide the development of climate change statistics and indicators given the close interrelationship between environment statistics and climate change statistics.
For UNSD: Review and consider the set of climate change-related statistics and indicators of the Economic Commission for Europe as a basis for developing a global set of climate change statistics and indicators, applicable to countries at various stages of development.

UNSD: Globalizing climate change statistics and indicators



The UN-ECE set of indicators was endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians plenary session in June 2017 as an initial list.

UNSD:

- has pilot tested the UN-ECE set of indicators with countries and analyzed the responses to assess its applicability for developing countries, in particular to consider areas of concern such as adaptation/vulnerability.
- has discussed the set of indicators in various fora, including the Expert Group on Environment Statistics (EGES), and regional and national capacity building workshops.

EGES website: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/fdes/fdes_eges.cshtml

UNSD Pilot Survey on Climate Change-related Statistics and Indicators - summary

- The UN-ECE set includes 39 indicators, grouped into five areas:

  Drivers – Emissions – Impacts – Mitigation – Adaptation

- **12** countries (11 developing and 1 developed), most of which are part of Expert Group on Environment Statistics (EGES), responded to Pilot Survey.

- The Pilot Survey contained 13 questions for the 39 indicators that were identical to those used by UN-ECE.
- UNSD has summarized responses to:

  Question 1: Is this indicator available in your country? [Yes/No]

  Question 9: [If not] Which are the main problems in developing this indicator?

  Question 4.1: Is this indicator compiled by the NSO? [Yes/No]

Observations from the Pilot Survey and the EGES

- Methodological issues/Need clear definitions.
- Lack of technical capacity; constraint of human/financial resources.
- No policy framework.
- Specialized surveys needed/Lack of resources to conduct specialized surveys/Low survey response rates/Data quality issues.
- Lack of dedicated inter-institutional working group at national level focusing on climate change statistics.
- Some NSOs are highly involved in indicator compilation; others not.
- Several indicators not applicable/relevant (e.g., proportion of pop. living in dwellings with air conditioners or air conditioning), not available, not top priority, not significantly important, or too complex.
- Need to adjust indicators to reflect attribution and to include new sub-areas (such as oceans) or indicators which may be pertinent to developing countries, and to expand on areas such as adaptation which are of particular relevance to developing countries.
- Reporting methodologies, procedures and guidelines under negotiation at the UNFCCC.

Pilot Survey – key points

Demonstrated the need to develop:

- New or additional indicators to reflect situation in developing countries.
- Process on how to identify/modify the indicators based on:

  - existing global processes (e.g., incorporating indicators identified in adaptation and mitigation plans being submitted to UNFCCC).

  -regional and national policies, priorities and processes.
- Systematic process for a full consultation at national level to involve all stakeholders.

Report of the Secretary-General on Climate Change Statistics to the 49th session of the Statistical Commission

UNSD, in collaboration with UN-ECE and UNFCCC, prepared the Report of the Secretary-General on Climate Change Statistics to the 49th session of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2018/14) (New York, 6-9 March 2018).
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/49th-session/documents/2018-14-ClimateChange-E.pdf

Decision: 49/113
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/49th-session/documents/Report-on-the-49th-session-E.pdf

Main decisions
For countries: (i) Participate in the Pilot Survey on Climate Change-related Statistics and Indicators currently being undertaken by UNSD, as well as in the planned Global Consultation on Climate Change Statistics and Indicators; (ii) Enhance collaboration between national statistical offices (NSOs) and national authorities responsible for reporting climate change related information to UNFCCC Secretariat;
For UNSD and UNFCCC: Strengthen the link between statistics and policy, for example, by: (i) undertaking joint initiatives in the development of climate change statistics and indicators; (ii) encouraging joint capacity building efforts and trainings with other partners, and exploring ways to encourage NSOs to be more involved in the preparation of data submissions to the UNFCCC secretariat, for supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

UNSD: Globalizing climate change statistics and indicators (current activities/plans)

UNSD:

- presented the SG's Report on Climate Change Statistics to the 49th session of the Statistical Commission (6-9 March 2018).
- has reviewed the UN-ECE and the IPCC/FDES frameworks and identified links to the Paris Agreement.
- is reviewing the UN-ECE list of indicators and consulting other lists (international organizations (UNFCCC, WMO, FAO), regional institutions (UNECE, ESCWA, ECLAC, OECD), research (IPCC) national agencies (US EPA, New Zealand EPA), national reports (National Adaptation Plans, National Communications) and NGOs (Climate Reality, World Resources Institute) with a view to developing a suitable list prior to the Global Consultation.
- is developing a work plan based on the list of planned activities contained in the SG's Report to the 49th session of the Stat. Commission.
- is planning to develop an inventory of related work on climate change statistics by partner organizations.
- is planning to conduct the Global Consultation in 2019/2020.

UNSD: Globalizing climate change statistics and indicators (current activities/plans)

To strengthen the link between statistics and policy, UNSD is engaging closely with UNFCCC to develop the global set of climate change statistics and indicators.

Some examples are:

- Joint report to the 49th session of the Stat. Commission (with UN-ECE)
- Joint Side Event at the 49th session of the Stat. Comm.
- Joint Side Event at the 50th session of the Stat. Comm.
- UNFCCC participates in the Expert Group on Environment Statistics
- UNSD participated in the Workshop on national adaptation goals/indicators and their relationship with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Tokyo in July 2018.
- UNFCCC participated in the UNSD/UNEP/ESCWA workshop on environment statistics and information for the Arab region in Beirut in November 2018.

5th EGES meeting – key points on climate change

Framework for Climate Change Statistics and Indicators:

Expert Group agreed to use the areas of the IPCC framework (drivers, impacts, vulnerability, mitigation, adaptation,) to structure the global set of statistics and indicators as it would create a direct link to international policy and reporting to UNFCCC through the Paris Agreement.

Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators:

Expert Group agreed that indicators should be based on IPCC framework and linked to UNFCCC through the Paris Agreement to strengthen relationship between statistics and policy. The set of indicators should be limited in number to provide clear guidance for policy makers and encourage an inclusive and universal set applicable to all countries. It was agreed that a limited core set with additional indicators developed in a tiering system to cater to countries with different concerns, priorities and capabilities would be useful.

5th EGES meeting – key points on climate change

Role of National Statistical Offices (NSOs):

Expert Group discussed that existing structures in a country may provide an entry point and the NSO could become the national aggregator of the climate change information by mining National Communications reported to UNFCCC and putting them into context. The role of the NSO was seen as providing transparency and in raising awareness of climate change as an issue among a broad range of stakeholders. Expert Group discussed that NSOs could play a more active role in the national climate change committees.

Global Consultation on Climate Change Statistics and Indicators:

Expert Group discussed that the Global Consultation should take place in 2019-2020 and the results be ready prior to the Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement (first one in 2023) to be available to collectively assess progress and implementation to address the information needs of the Global Stocktake. Guidance to implement the Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement will most probably be finalized at the COP24 in Dec 2018. The implementation guidance is expected to shed more light on the data reporting requirements of the Paris Agreement, so exact dates of when to conduct the Consultation will be determined in due course.

Towards the global set of climate change indicators

(consulted sources to date)

International and Regional Sources

- IPCC Reports
- WMO
- ESCWA
- FAO
- FDES
- SDG Indicators
- SEEA
- ECE
- EEA
- Other Academic/NGO institutions or frameworks

National Sources (103 to date)

- State of environment reports
- UNFCCC National Communications
- National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)
- National environmental protection agencies
- Intended National Determined Contributions (INDCs)
- National Statistics Offices (NSOs)
- Ministry websites
  - Ministries of Environment
  - Ministries of Natural Resources
  - Ministries of Sustainable Development
  - Ministries of Energy
  - Bureaus of Meteorology

Towards the global set of climate change indicators

(consulted 103 national sources to date)

Towards the global set of climate change indicators

- In the growing list of climate change indicators, there are approximately 6,822 indicators related to Drivers, Impacts, Mitigation, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Many of which are repeated across different countries and organizations.

- Indicators come from reports of M. of Env/NSOs, which contain country-relevant information, at least one national source has been taken from 103 countries. Besides, international and regional sources such as SDG indicators, FDES, IPCC reports and ECE have been taken into account to identify other key indicators.

- Most country-specific indicators come from State of Environment reports or UNFCCC National Communications/National Adaptation Plans. Data from ministries of energy, meteorology and natural resources also been considered.

- UNSD is identifying a list of the most commonly repeated indicators according to the five areas of IPCC framework promoting a bottom-up approach to the selection of indicators and will continue this compilation from more countries.

- Presented are the common indicators for Drivers-13, Impacts-13 indicators, Vulnerability-12, Mitigation-12 and Adaptation-13. The common indicators occur often and cover the majority of reported indicators extracted so far.

Towards the global set of Driver Indicators (103 countries)

Name of Indicator	Countries which have reported (Out of 103)	Number of Occurrences (multiple sources per country)
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	68	108
Area under Land Use	56	85
Emission of Non-Methane Volatile Organic Compounds (NMVOC)	29	29
Livestock Production	28	30
Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) emissions	26	27
Number of Vehicles	17	26
Deforestation Rate	13	14
Energy Intensity of the Economy	12	14
Energy Consumption by Household/Capita	7	10
GHG Emissions from Land Use/LULUCF	7	8
Total Primary Energy Consumption (TPES)	5	5
Generation of Waste/wastewater	5	5
Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) Emissions from Fuel Combustion	5	5

Towards the global set of Impact Indicators (103 countries)

Name of Indicator	Countries which have reported (Out of 103)	Number of Occurrences (multiple sources per country)
Concentration of Carbon Monoxide (CO)	77	506
Changes in Precipitation	62	84
Sea level Rise	45	46
Occurrence of Drought	42	47
Occurrence of Flood	41	52
Morbidity due to Water related Diseases and Conditions	36	109
Incidence / Number of Cases of Vector-Borne Diseases	35	43
Rise in Surface Air Temperature	33	37
Agricultural Production	24	25
Changes in Humidity	22	22
Anomalies in Surface Winds Speeds	21	21
Occurrence of Hurricane/ Tropical Storm/ Cyclone/ Typhoon/ Tornado	18	26
Affected due to Natural Extreme Events and disasters	15	25

Towards the global set of Vulnerability Indicators (103 countries)

Name of Indicator	Countries which have reported (Out of 103)	Number of Occurrences (multiple sources per country)
Threats to Crops and vegetation	32	46
Affects on Fish Production	18	24
Distribution of Ecosystems	14	16
Water bodies - Lakes/Rivers	14	20
Population Living in Slums	13	14
Various Risk elements (Threats to Species / Forests / Water Bodies)	12	22
Population Living below the Poverty Line	10	10
Mortality Rate	10	11
Variability of Climate Zones	10	10
Access to Health Care	9	9
Population Living in Coastal Areas	8	8
Endangered/Vulnerable Species	8	8

Towards the global set of Mitigation Indicators (103 countries)

Name of Indicator	Countries which have reported (Out of 103)	Number of Occurrences (multiple sources per country)
Renewable Energy use in Overall Consumption	38	46
Use of Hydro Energy	23	27
Development of Infrastructure/Technology related to Mitigation	19	41
Progress towards Reducing GHG Emissions	18	20
Investments on Environmental Protection	14	19
Use of Solar Energy	14	14
List and Description of Green/Environmental Taxes	14	15
Number of Environmental Monitoring Stations	13	19
Research and Development (R&D) on Mitigation Efforts	7	8
Increase in Forest Area	6	6
Early Warning Systems	6	7
Implementation of Sustainable Practices Performed to Mitigate	5	6

Towards the global set of Adaptation Indicators (103 countries)

Name of Indicator	Countries which have reported (Out of 103)	Number of Occurrences (multiple sources per country)
Area which is Protected	44	66
Distribution & Status of Species	37	49
Use of Water Resources	35	56
Utilization of Adaptive Agricultural Methods	22	30
Size of Environmental Monitoring Network	21	28
Recycling/Reuse/Use of Solid Waste	18	21
Proportion of Buildings/Infrastructure adhering to Environmental Standards	17	26
National Climate Change Research and Education Programs/Measures	14	14
Measures of Cultural Sensitization to Environmental Issues / Climate Change	12	13
National Climate Change Adaptation Programs/Policies/Plans	9	9
Utilization of Renewable Energy	8	8
Early Warning Systems / Forecasts & Mitigation Strategies available to Public	7	8
Use of Hydro Energy	7	8

Further work on the global set of climate change indicators

- Continue compilation of indicators from more sources and identification of common indicators.
- Review/compile metadata for the common indicators (maybe just Tier 1) to promote international applicability and harmonization.
- Continue to engage with UNFCCC and other partners to strengthen the link between statistics and policy, e.g., by: (i) undertaking joint initiatives in the development of climate change statistics and indicators; and (ii) encouraging joint capacity building efforts and training (e.g., UNFCCC participated in workshop on environment statistics and information for the Arab region).
- Ensure linkage of the work on the global set of indicators to:
  - the Adaptation Programme of UNFCCC (Article 7 - Paris Agreement);
  - the Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement (Article 14); and
  - the Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement (Article 13), based on the outcomes of the COP24 in Katowice.