

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (m) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: climate change statistics

Document E/CN.3/2022/17 – Report of the Secretary-General on climate change statistics

Statement provided by:

National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India

Statement:

The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India takes this opportunity to share some observations/suggestions of Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, which are as follows:

1. India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement, which provide a global framework for countries to collectively address climate change. As a part of the commitment, India periodically submits its National Communications and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) to the UNFCCC which includes the national Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory. Similarly, India is also a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and various other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). With respect to the climate change statistics, the countries adhere to the primacy of UNFCCC and its principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities and Equity.

2. In this context, MoEFCC, Government of India feels that the current efforts by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) are not mandatory and are only complementary to the efforts of the countries in meeting their commitments under various treaties and agreements as agreed in the 52nd session of UNSC held in March 2021.

Global set of climate change statistics and indicators as the framework for climate change statistics and indicators:

3. The Global Set of climate change statistics and indicators primarily include the bio-physical indicators and statistics, apart from human activities, social and institutional aspects related to climate change. In India, climate change is being addressed by different Ministries/Departments, States/ Union Territories and their organisations across the entire economy. Climate change related statistics are generated by various government agencies as an inherent requirement or function to meet the specific goals and objectives and the mandate of the said organizations. Hence, in case of India, preparation of Climate Change Statistics and indicators as per the proposed framework would be an overlapping exercise.

Capacity development in climate change statistics:

4. Capacity development in climate change statistics is an ongoing activity. India has implemented projects namely Initial National Communication, Second National Communication and Third National Communication in the last 25 years. India will also implement the Capacity-Building Initiative for

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Transparency (CBIT) under the Paris Agreement. These efforts are being made, but the task is much bigger. New requirements and challenges e.g., the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) under the enhanced transparency framework are also emerging.

5. So MoEFCC, Government of India, feels that the UNSC should consider giving additional funding for generating statistics in future which will help us strengthen our current institutions, provide training and give resources to the concerned organizations involved in the process. For example, in the greenhouse inventory, assistance (in the form of funds, trainings etc) for preparing the country specific emission factors, collection of detailed activity data as per the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) sectoral classifications, preparation of the country specific database (online software platform, modelling and projection) to collect climate change relevant data to name a few, may be provided.

Investment in the development of climate change statistics, in particular environment, energy, agriculture, and industry statistics:

6. Climate Change is a multidisciplinary field, and a wide range of databases are required for the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics. Directly as well as indirectly, data is being generated by different Ministries. MoEFCC, Government of India in collaboration with not only NSO but other Ministries/ Organisations such as the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) etc is producing climate change statistics in particular environment, energy, agriculture and industry statistics, based upon the outcome/benefit that shall be derived from its formulation.

Enhancement of collaboration between national statistical offices and national authorities responsible for reporting climate change-related information to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

7. MoEFCC, Government of India has established the National Communication (NATCOM) Project Management Unit/ NATCOM Cell, which carries out the different tasks of reporting to the UNFCCC. In addition, several studies are carried out to meet requirements of various Multilateral Environment Agreements to which India is a party (UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, CBD etc).

8. Various tasks and activities related to climate change require comprehensive study, and technical as well as sector-specific expertise, in addition to stakeholder's participation. Different Ministries and Government departments that are most concerned with the different aspects work closely with the MoEFCC including the NSO, MoSPI. MoSPI provides comprehensive coverage of the energy sector in the form of an annual publication, "Energy Statistics", which is an integrated and updated database of reserves, installed capacity, production, consumption, import, export and wholesale prices of different sources viz. coal, crude oil, natural gas and electricity including electricity from new and renewable energy sources.

Views on the list of actions in section V outlining the way forward for agencies and countries to further develop climate change statistics and indicators:

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9. It is emphasized that the development of climate change statistics and indicators should be a voluntary initiative, as per national laws and policies. The development of these extensive statistics requires constant investment in terms of manpower, funds and training. Thus, end use of the Climate Change Statistics must be defined at the initial stage and must also avoid duplication of efforts. Further, the UNSC should consider giving additional funding to developing countries for the list of actions mentioned in the Section V of climate change statistics.

10. India periodically submits its National Communications and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) to the UNFCCC which includes National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory. So far, India has submitted two National Communications to UNFCCC which includes National GHG inventories for the years 1994, 2000, and submitted three BURs to UNFCCC which includes National GHG inventories for the years 2010, 2014 and 2016. Dedicated funds have been provided in the past for the fulfillment of mandates under various Multilateral Environment Agreements.

Submitted on:

2/25/2022