

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

1–3 and 5 March 2022

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-Climate Change Statistics

Statement provided by: Stats NZ (New Zealand)

Overview:

The present report was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2021/224 and past practices by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The report contains an update on the work of the Division regarding climate change statistics, in particular the development of a global set of climate change statistics and indicators, which was mandated by the Statistical Commission at its forty-seventh and forty-ninth sessions.

The report contains the final draft of the global set of climate change statistics and indicators, which provides a comprehensive statistical framework with statistics, indicators and metadata designed to support countries in preparing their own sets of climate change statistics and indicators according to their individual concerns, priorities, and resources. It also explains the process of developing the global set, which involved extensive global consultation. The results of the consultation were discussed at the eighth meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics, at which it was recommended that the global set be submitted to the Statistical Commission at its fifty-third session for adoption.

The report also includes a workplan prepared by the Division outlining the way forward towards the implementation of the global set. The Commission is invited to consider and adopt the global set as the framework for climate change statistics and indicators and encourage its implementation in countries, and to provide its views on the workplan outlining the way forward.

Action Taken by the Statistical Commission:

The Commission is invited:

- (a) To adopt the global set of climate change statistics and indicators as the framework for climate change statistics and indicators and encourage its implementation in countries
- (b) To consider the need to review the global set in three to five years from its adoption;
- (c) To urge the international statistical community to expand its capacity development efforts regarding climate change statistics;
- (d) To strongly encourage national statistical systems to invest in the development of climate change statistics, in particular environment, energy, agriculture, and industry statistics, in their respective countries;
- (e) To encourage the 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, given the increased and more diverse data requirements for the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

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- (f) To consider the activities already undertaken by the Statistics Division and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to strengthen the link between statistics and policy, such as joint initiatives in the development of climate change statistics and indicators, joint capacity-building efforts, and training with other partners, and to propose the continuation of such activities.
- (g) To urge the donor community to mobilize additional and substantial resources to enable capacity-building in environment and climate change statistics in developing countries;
- (h) To provide its 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.

Statement:

Stats NZ commends the group on creating the global set of climate change statistics and indicators, and on the changes made in response to the consultation

Stats NZ was pleased to participate in the consultation, as it provided further impetus for us to enhance our collaboration with the national authorities responsible for reporting climate change-related information. The consultation also facilitated greater awareness amongst those agencies of the UN Statistical Commission's work and how it can shape the development of a coherent, policy relevant, national set of indicators suitable for New Zealand.

Focus for New Zealand: New Zealand is continuously working to move forward on measuring climate change and is working with our Pacific nations to assist them in this work as well.

We welcome the framework the global set provides, noting that the global set includes primarily biophysical indicators and statistics, but also human activities, and social and institutional aspects related to climate change. However, we would like to encourage future reviews of the global set to include more indicators of the distributional impact of policies directed at the vulnerable communities, at adaptation and mitigation. This, along with indicators of the extent of "green finance" are the key gaps in NZ's climate change indicator information, and we are working with our colleagues across government to address that, funding permitting.

Once again, we would like to extend our congratulations to the UNSD (United Nations Statistics Division) for completing such a momentous task, and for working with us, other countries, and agencies. It is great to see a set of indicators with such great coherence with international reporting requirements and other relevant statistical frameworks (SEEA, Sendai, SDG, FDES (Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics)).

Submitted on:

2/25/2021