



Updates on the UNECE/CES Task Force on Waste Statistics

Developing a framework on waste statistics



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16th Session of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators, Geneva, 28-29 October 2019

CES Task Force on Waste Statistics

Developing a waste statistics framework

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Established in February 2017 based on an [issue paper](#) drafted by Netherlands and UNECE in cooperation with Armenia, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Ukraine, as well as with Eurostat, OECD and UNSD

Members:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Chair), Canada (Vice-Chair), Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Israel, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Moldova, Russian Federation
- Basel Convention Secretariat, Eurostat, OECD, UN-Habitat, UNSD
- UNU (Vice-Chair), ISWA, EAWAG, GIZ, University of Leeds
- UNECE provides the Secretariat of the Task Force

Main objective: To develop a framework on waste statistics and draft a glossary of the most important terms and definitions in waste statistics.

Status of work: Draft report was presented to CES Bureau in February 2019, extended to work for one more year



Why is there the need for a framework?

Growing information demand and weaknesses of data collections



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- Growing information demand, e.g.
 - SDGs
 - Basel Convention
 - UNEP 10-year framework programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production
 - Circular economy initiatives

- Existing weaknesses, e.g.
 - Important waste flows not measured or conceptually not considered (e.g. informal activities)
 - Key terms and definitions are not fully harmonized (e.g. "municipal waste")
 - Boundary between waste, products and secondary raw materials is not clearly defined;
 - Several waste flows are difficult to measure (e.g. imports and exports of waste)
 - Different ways to measure the amounts of waste
 - No standard international waste classification
 - Often more details needed (e.g. e-waste, textiles waste, food waste,...)

Key messages of the report



Clarifies important terms and brings them into a semantic relationship

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Conceptual definitions and relationship of term such as

- **Waste**
- **Waste management**
- **Informal waste-related activities**
- **Illegal waste-related activities**
- **Controlled versus uncontrolled waste**

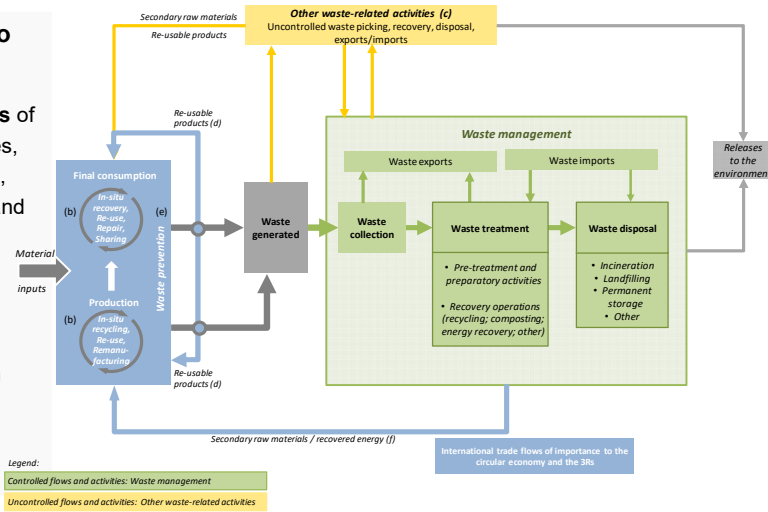
Key messages of the report

A conceptual framework

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Text and figures to understand:

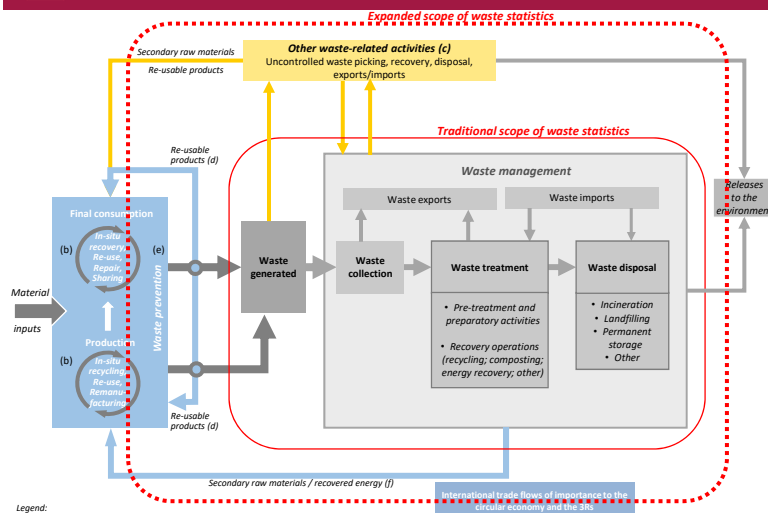
- a) Conceptual links of flows of resources, products, wastes, waste products and releases to the environment
- b) Key terms and definitions and their relation with each other



Scope of waste statistics

We need to expand the current scope to address policy needs

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Feedback received from CES Bureau

Meeting in February 2019 in Washington D.C.

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- Welcomed the coverage of illegal and unmanaged waste in the framework
- Suggested for the finalization of work
 - Review the definition of waste which is a very important part of the conceptual framework.
 - Clarify the differences between the scope and definitions used in the draft framework and in the international questionnaires of Eurostat/OECD and UNSD/UNEP.
 - Make recommendations more precise

→ Task Force has agreed on a work plan for finalization of the work



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Thank you very much for your attention!

Michael Nagy

