

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2021/2022 Bureau  
Geneva, 23-24 February

Item III (d) of the Provisional  
Agenda

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A TASK FORCE ON  
THE ROLE OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES IN ACHIEVING NATIONAL  
CLIMATE OBJECTIVES**

**Note by the Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics**

*This document presents the terms of reference for the Task Force on the role of national statistical offices (NSOs) in achieving national climate objectives. This is a follow-up to the CES plenary session discussion on “Official statistics and climate action”.*

*In October 2021, the Bureau discussed the proposal for follow-up prepared by the Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics. The Bureau approved the proposal, decided to create a Task Force and asked the Steering Group to prepare the terms of reference at its next meeting.*

***The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Task Force.***

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. In 2014, the [CES Recommendations](#) defined the role of the statistical offices in supporting greenhouse gas inventories and producing other climate change-related statistics, and listed many ways in which NSOs could increase their involvement in providing climate-related data. With the adoption of the Paris Agreement and its Work Programme, these recommendations remain valid, but it is now possible to explore new opportunities and identify concrete ways in which NSOs can contribute to achieving national climate change objectives.

2. First of all, from the perspective of the global reporting, data is integral to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Agreement relies on pledges (Nationally Determined Contributions) including quantifiable goals measured through indicators (Enhanced Transparency Framework). The collective progress is assessed every five years (the Global Stocktake). However, countries have a lot of flexibility in setting goals, choosing indicators and organizing reporting arrangements. This means there are many opportunities for NSOs to be involved and add value, but their role in any of the Paris Agreement processes is not prescribed.

3. Secondly, from the national perspective, to meet climate objectives, governments must put in place increasingly ambitious mitigation and adaptation policies. The governments need reliable data to design these policies and monitor their success.

4. Finally, the Paris Agreement calls for the governments to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information, recognizing the importance of these steps for enhancing global climate action and achieving global climate objectives. Producing timely and relevant climate change-related statistics is key contribution of NSOs towards addressing this call and increasing public awareness of climate related issues.

5. In October 2021, the Bureau discussed and approved the proposal for a Task Force on the role of NSOs in achieving national climate objectives and requested the Steering Group to prepare the terms of reference for its February 2022 meeting.

## **II. MANDATE**

6. The work of the Task Force on the role of national statistical offices in achieving national climate objectives is conducted within the framework of CES and its Bureau. The Task Force will be created for a period of two years, after which it will submit a final report. The Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics will guide and oversee the work of the Task Force.

## **III. OBJECTIVES**

7. The main objective of the Task Force is to develop guidance on how national statistical offices can contribute to achieving national climate objectives. The guidance will identify concrete ways in which NSOs can be involved and showcase what the statistical system already offers to support climate action.

## **IV. PLANNED OUTPUT AND ACTIVITIES**

8. The main output of the Task Force's work will be a guidance document on how national statistical offices can contribute to achieving national climate objectives including how to:

- (a) Support the reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement and provide input to the Global Stocktake;
- (b) Meet information needs of national climate policymaking, e.g. for planning, measuring and M&E of climate change adaptation, monitoring energy transition, informing just transition, monitoring carbon footprint. The priority areas of national climate policymaking to be covered will be determined by the Task Force;
- (c) Inform the broad public about climate-related issues;
- (d) Communicate differences between the air emission estimates from SEEA and greenhouse gas inventories.

9. The main activities of the Task Force will be the following:

- (a) Identify relevant resources that are already available (developed by the Steering Group, the Task Force on the Set of Core Climate Change-Related Statistics and Indicators or other groups and organizations);
- (b) Organize workshop(s) or consultations with users of data related to achieving climate objectives, such as policymakers, journalists or researchers;
- (c) Identify relevant good practices and country examples;
- (d) Draft the Guidance document;
- (e) Identify areas for further work.

10. The Task Force will focus on the institutional aspect of NSOs' involvement and guidance on the use of existing data, to complement the ongoing methodological work under major global

statistical frameworks and initiatives, e.g. the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators, SEEA, G20 Data Gaps Initiative or the OECD International Programme for Action of Climate. The Task Force may describe identified data gaps. The Task Force will also aim to showcase how the CES Set of Core Statistics and Indicators could be used in the above areas and take into account the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators.

11. In carrying out its activities, the Task Force will cooperate with the UN agencies and other international organizations working in this area. The work should be aligned and coordinated with corresponding efforts under UNFCCC, outcomes of COP26 and with the findings of the Eurostat review of climate change-related statistics.

## V. TIMETABLE

12. The Task Force is foreseen to work for two years. The activities of the Task Force are planned for the period from February 2022 to June 2024, according to the following tentative schedule:

Feb-Mar 2022	Establishment of the Task Force and drafting of a work plan with activities, timing and division of work
Mar-Apr 2022	Identifying and reviewing existing resources
May 2022	Organization of workshop(s) or consultation with data users
May-Sep 2022	Identifying good practices and country examples, and developing the outline of the Guidance
Sep 2022	Reporting on the progress to the 2022 Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics
Oct 2022 – Aug 2023	Drafting the Guidance
Sep 2023	Presenting the draft Guidance to the 2023 Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics
Oct – Nov 2023	Reviewing the Guidance
Dec 2023	Finalising the Guidance
Jan-Feb 2024	Submission of the Guidance to CES Bureau and discussion at its February 2024 meeting
June 2024	Expected endorsement by the CES plenary session

## VI. METHODS OF WORK

13. The Task Force will work primarily via e-mail, collaborative workspace and online conferences. Physical meetings of the Task Force could be organized back-to-back to other meetings attended by a significant number of Task Force members.

## **VII. MEMBERSHIP**

14. The Task Force will include representatives of national statistical offices, other involved national agencies, academia and international organizations.

15. The following countries, international organizations and research institutes have expressed interest in participating in the Task Force: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, ECA, ECLAC, EEA, ESCAP, Eurostat, IEA, IMF, UNEP, UNSD, UNFCCC, Midsummer Analytics and UNECE. The Task Force is open to other countries and organisations that would like to contribute to its work.

16. UNECE will act as Secretariat to the Task Force.

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