

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STEERING GROUP
ON CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED STATISTICS**

Prepared by the Steering Group and the Secretariat

The Bureau approved the proposed terms of reference for the Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics for the period 2023-2028.

I. BACKGROUND

1. Climate change represents one of the greatest challenges facing humanity today. Finding ways to allow continued economic and social development while drastically reducing emissions of greenhouse gases is a vast technical and political challenge. The global initiatives responding to this challenge, such as Paris Agreement, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, generate new data requirements extending from direct data on climate and greenhouse gas emissions to data on the social, economic and environmental impacts of climate change, and efforts taken to mitigate it or adapt to it.
2. These requirements, in line with the scope of climate change-related statistics defined by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), have increased the demand for data held by national statistical offices also in areas not directly linked to greenhouse gas emission inventories. Continued effort in coordination, further methodological work and capacity development is needed to meet the upcoming challenges in this area.

II. MANDATE

3. The work of the Steering Group is conducted within the framework of CES and its Bureau. The Steering Group will regularly report to the CES Bureau on the CES activities on climate change-related statistics, including on the outcome of expert meetings and task forces working under its guidance.
4. The Steering Group may identify concrete tasks or activities to support its work that could be undertaken by groups of experts (Task Forces). In such cases, after having verified the interest by a sufficient number of CES member countries and the availability of resources, the Steering Group will submit proposals to the CES Bureau for review and approval.

III. OBJECTIVE

5. The objective of the Steering Group to provide direction to the CES work on climate change-related statistics, identify and address emerging issues and facilitate the implementation of CES guidelines in this area.

IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

6. The Steering Group will carry out the following activities:

- (a) Steer CES activities on climate change-related statistics and coordinate with other relevant groups, bodies and international organizations working on related topics;
- (b) Act as an organizing committee to the annual UNECE Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics, and other related expert events that may be organised;
- (c) Oversee any CES task forces on climate change-related statistics;
- (d) Identify areas of climate change-related statistics that require further methodological work or where practical guidance would need to be developed;
- (e) Provide advice on methodological work on climate change-related statistics, including new areas, methods or data sources;
- (f) Promote and enable multiple avenues of sharing ideas and good practices and peer-to-peer learning;
- (g) Follow up on countries' progress in implementing the CES guidelines and recommendations on climate change-related statistics;
- (h) Advise on and identify options for capacity development on climate change-related statistics, including strengthening of underlying data;
- (i) Collaborate closely with international organisations active in this domain, discuss the roles and responsibilities of the statistical community and support exchange of experience and knowledge between the statistical community and other producers and users of climate change-related data.

V. TIMETABLE

7. The terms of reference of the Steering Group will be reviewed in 2028.

VI. METHODS OF WORK

8. The Steering Group will primarily work via email and videoconferences. In-person meetings may be organised on the occasion of events attended by a significant number of Steering Group members, such as the Expert Fora for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics or other relevant events.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

9. As of September 2023, the representatives of the following countries and organizations participate in the Steering Group: Canada, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the European Environment Agency, Eurostat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Midsummer Analytics.

10. Members of the Steering Group are expected to contribute actively to the work and provide ideas for future activities. Membership will be periodically reviewed. The Steering Group elects its Chair or Co-chairs and Vice-Chair(s).

11. UNECE acts as Secretariat to the Steering Group.

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