UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Implementation Guidelines

for the Conference of European Statisticians' Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics Using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

UNECE

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PREFACE

This document provides practical guidelines on how to implement the Conference of European Statisticians' Core Set of Climate Change-Related Indicators (CES Indicator Set), taking into account national policy priorities and data availability. It complements the main report of the Task Force and the metadata sheets with detailed information on individual indicators.

The CES Indicator Set, its implementation guidelines and indicator metadata sheets were developed by a dedicated UNECE Task Force on a set of key Climate Change-Related Statistics Using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) established by the Conference of European Statisticians. The set of documents was endorsed in 2020 by the Heads of national statistical offices of more than 60 CES member countries.

The CES Indicator Set provides the foundation for developing national sets of climate change-related indicators intended to show the big picture of climate change-related issues, address the most relevant current policy questions and help meet upcoming information needs. It includes 44 indicators covering climate change drivers, emissions, climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation. It also proposes corresponding contextual and operational indicators, helping interpret the core set in the national and global context and provide more details according to national circumstances and priorities. The selection of the indicators followed a careful vetting process based on the criteria of policy relevance, methodological soundness and data availability. The CES Indicator Set is the recommended set of climate change-related indicators to be compiled and published in the CES member countries.

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The Task Force was chaired by Angelica Tudini (Italian National Institute of Statistics, ISTAT) and Olivier Thunus (Statistics Luxembourg) acted as Vice-Chair.

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The Task Force worked under the guidance of the Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics.

Michael Nagy (UNECE) served as the secretary of the Task Force.

CONTENTS

PREFACE III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS IV
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS 1
1. INTRODUCTION 2
1.1 The statistical community's contribution to monitoring and reporting on climate change 2
1.2 Purpose of the CES set of core climate change-related indicators 3
1.3 Purpose of the implementation guidelines 6
2. PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING A NATIONAL INDICATOR SET 7
2.1 Step 1: Initiating the process: 7
2.1.1 Getting the mandate and obtaining the support of main stakeholders 7
2.1.2 Creating a stakeholder platform 8
2.1.3 Developing a roadmap 12
2.2 Step 2: Forming a technical working group 12
2.3 Step 3: Developing an action plan with a timeline 12
2.4 Step 4: Selecting the indicators and statistics for the national set 13
2.4.1 Analyse the CES core set of climate change-related indicators 13
2.4.2 Select the indicators 14
2.5 Step 5: Planning the production with available data 15
2.6 Step 6: Implementing the plan 16
2.7 Step 7: Evaluating the production plan, process and outputs 17
2.8 Step 8: Following up on the evaluation 17
ANNEX. THE CES SET OF CORE CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED INDICATORS 19

TABLES

Text Box 1: Benefits of implementing the CES indicator set 5
Text Box 2: National examples for starting and organizing the process 8
Text Box 3: The bigger picture: relevant international initiatives 10
Text Box 4: International work and recommendations on climate change (-related) statistics 11
Text Box 5: National examples of dissemination of climate change-related indicators 11
Text Box 6: National examples of action plans 13
Text Box 7: National example of operational and contextual indicators 15
Text Box 8: National examples of production plans 16

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CES	Conference of European Statisticians
COP	Conference of the Parties
EEA	European Environment Agency
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDES	United Nations Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics
GHG	Greenhouse gas
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LULUCF	Land use, land-use change, and forestry
NDCs	Nationally determined contributions (Paris Agreement)
NSO	National statistical office
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIEWG	Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction
SDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
SEEA	United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
SEEA-EA	United Nations System of Environmental-Economic – Ecosystem Accounting
SEEA-CF	United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting – Central Framework
SNA	System of National Accounts
ToR	Terms of reference
UNCEEA	United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WHO	World Health Organization

1. INTRODUCTION

1. This document provides practical guidelines for implementing the **Conference of European Statisticians core set of climate change-related indicators (CES Indicator Set)**. This indicator set is a tool developed by and for the statistical community, which contributes to the monitoring and reporting on climate change. The indicator set was developed by a Task Force under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

2. For more details on the development of the CES indicator set, see "Conference of European Statisticians' Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics Using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting" (UNECE, 2021)

3. The CES indicator set, structured according to the five main areas drivers, emissions, impacts, mitigation and adaptation, can be found in the annex of this document.

1.1 The statistical community's contribution to monitoring and reporting on climate change

4. Climate change is an existential threat and provides an immense challenge for society. A better understanding of all its aspects, through monitoring, modelling, analysis and reporting, is crucial to decide on the best course of action. The information needs are extensive, and the statistical community, as a provider of high-quality data and related services, has an important role to play. Efforts to develop guidance on how the statistical community can support climate action resulted in the publication of the **Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics (CES Recommendations)**[1] in 2014. The Recommendations list suggestions for the next steps, which include the formation of a Steering Group to follow up on progress, organization of international Expert Fora bringing together users and producers of climate change-related statistics, and development of a set of core climate change-related indicators.

5. The CES Recommendations noted that several countries were developing climate change indicator sets for policy purposes and suggested coordinating this work internationally to produce comparable statistics across countries and ensure the use of official statistics to the maximum extent possible. Producing a set of core climate change-related indicators to measure and monitor changes over time would build on the core competence of national statistical offices in providing high-quality, consistent time series. The CES indicator set is a contribution by the statistical community to improve monitoring and reporting on climate change.

6. Since 2014, the UNECE Steering Group on climate change-related statistics has organized regular Expert Fora and developed further resources[2], including a tool to prioritize action, narratives to support greater involvement, and a wiki on good practices and other documents.

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