

# Climate change and sustainable development – the role of indicators

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development  
Expert Group Meeting  
New York, 15-16 October 2008  
Conference room DC2 -23<sup>rd</sup> floor, 2 UN Plaza (44<sup>th</sup> Street between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.)

## \*\*\*Programme\*\*\*

### Wednesday, 15 October 2008

10:00-11:00 **Opening Session**

10:00-10:15 Welcome remarks

Mr. Zukang Sha, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

10:15-10:45 Objectives of the meeting and introduction of participants

Ms. Kathleen Abdalla, Acting Director, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

*The main objective of the meeting is to discuss ways for countries to better harness linkages between sustainable development indicators and climate change policy, thereby helping countries to operationalize the fact that “climate change is a sustainable development issue”. The meeting will review national and international experiences on indicators and on information needs for climate change policy. It also aims at fostering a dialogue among different sets of actors in this area.*

11:00– 13:00: **Session One: Climate change and indicators of sustainable development – overview**

Current climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC

Mr. Mohamed Reza Salamat, Secretary General’s Climate Change Support Team, United Nations

*The presentation will briefly outline the current negotiations under the UNFCCC on the international climate change regime. The negotiations, launched in Bali in December 2007 and scheduled to be finalized by December 2009, have led to a re-emphasis of the need to view climate change policy in the context of sustainable development. The presentation will focus on the possible implications of the negotiations on the demand for data and indicators.*

CSD Indicators of Sustainable Development and climate change  
Mr. Matthias Bruckner, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA

*The presentation will introduce the recently revised CSD Indicators of Sustainable Development and outline their potential for developing climate change related indicators. The CSD indicators serve as reference for countries to develop or revise national indicator sets. The presentation will outline how the indicators can be used as basis for deriving climate change related indicators.*

Sustainable development indicators of climate change –statistical requirements

Mr. Robert Smith, Statistics Canada and Chair of the Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development

*The presentation will provide a perspective of the international statistical community on the question of climate change and indicators of sustainable development. It will describe major international statistical processes and how these can contribute to develop climate change related indicators. It will also address of the statistical soundness of existing indicators in this area.*

Questions and answers/ discussion

1:00 – 2:30: Lunch

2:30 –6:00 **Session Two: Climate change and indicators of sustainable development – national experiences**

Indicators of sustainable development in relation to climate change:  
National experiences

Mr. Wadih Joao Scandar Neto, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Brazil

Mr. Stephen Hall, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom

Prof. Edgar Gutiérrez-Espeleta, Universidad de Costa Rica

Mr. Joseph Enyimu, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda

*Select experts will give presentations on their countries' national indicator sets and the role they are currently playing or could potentially play for improving informed decision-making on climate change. Other experts are expected to add their own countries' experience.*

Questions and Answers/ Discussion

Information requirements for climate change policies and decision-making: National experiences

Mr. Cheng Zhou, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China

Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, India

Ms. Rachel Hargreaves, Ministry of the Environment, New Zealand

Mr. Christian Tham, Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, South-Africa

*Select experts will give presentations on the need for information arising from national policy priorities in climate change. The presentations will also address which arrangements countries have in place or are planning to establish for satisfying needs for data and indicators in this regard. Other experts are expected to add their own countries' experience.*

Questions and Answers/ Discussion

### **Thursday 16 October 2008**

#### **10:00 – 1:00 Session Three: Climate change and indicators of sustainable development – specific topics**

Measuring climate change adaptation

Ms. Bo Lim, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

*Measuring the need for climate change adaptation and the impact of adaptation policies are among the key challenges in monitoring development progress. The presentation will discuss experiences and perspectives made by UNDP in developing adaptation indicators and in linking them to development indicators in general.*

Energy and carbon dioxide indicators

Mr. Peter Taylor, Energy Technology Policy Division, International Energy Agency (IEA)

*Carbon dioxide emissions caused by energy production and use is a major contributor to global warming. The presentation will discuss experiences made by the IEA in developing and computing indicators on carbon dioxide emissions and on energy indicators addressing climate change in the broader context of sustainable development.*

Forest monitoring in the context of climate change  
Mr. Don Wijewardana, United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, UN  
DESA

*Reduced Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries is one of main elements of the ongoing climate change negotiations due to its potentially large role for climate change mitigation. The presentation will address the usefulness of current and planned forest monitoring and indicator processes for measuring the impact of climate change policies and actions in the context of sustainable development.*

#### Questions and Answers/ Discussion

A tentative set of climate change related indicators of sustainable development

Mr. Matthias Bruckner, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA

*The presentation will outline a possible framework for climate change indicators of sustainable development, containing three main themes (climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, and climate change financing and technology) with 18 sub-themes. The presentation will then suggest an indicator set that could be used as starting point to further develop a reference set of indicators for countries wishing to develop national climate change indicators of sustainable development. More than half of the proposed indicators are also CSD indicators, whereas the remaining indicators cover additional specific aspects of climate change in the context of sustainable development.*

#### Discussion

1:00 – 2:30: Lunch

2:30-4:00 **Session Four: Climate change and indicators of sustainable development-The way forward**

Climate change and indicators of sustainable development:

Methodological gaps

Open discussion

*Participants will discuss possible ways forward regarding methodological work on climate change and sustainable development indicators. Questions that could be addressed during the discussion include:*

- *Are indicators an important means for informed decision-making on climate change in the context of sustainable development?*
- *Is there a need for improved sharing of country experiences?*

- *Would a reference list of indicators of climate change indicators of sustainable development be useful for countries?*
- *Could the framework and indicator set discussed in session three be a useful starting point?*
- *What are the main thematic gaps for which indicators need to be identified?*

Climate change and indicators of sustainable development: Awareness raising

Open discussion

*Participants will discuss how to improve the exchange of knowledge between sustainable development indicator and climate change communities at the national level. Questions that could be addressed during the discussion include:*

- *Is there a need for a better exchange of knowledge between sustainable development indicator and climate change communities?*
- *Are certain institutional arrangements conducive for a knowledge exchange and could these be replicated in other countries?*
- *Is there a role for the international community to promote the use of sustainable development indicators for climate change policy purposes?*

4:00-4:30

**Closing session**

Summary

Ms. Kathleen Abdalla, Acting Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA

Discussion