First Webinar of the Net Zero Statistics Sprint of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians – The Net Zero Narrative: Country experiences in Measuring, Managing, and Making a Difference

7:00 am -10:00 am, August 21 2025, New York time

Opening Remarks

Greetings and a very warm welcome to everyone, to this webinar on Net Zero Narrative: Country experiences in Measuring, Managing, and Making a Difference.

My name is AISHATH SHAHUDA and I’m the co-chair of the UN Network of Economic Statisticians which co-led the organization of this Sprint. It’s a great pleasure to have you join us.

Living in the Maldives, a low-lying small island developing state vulnerable to sea level rise and extreme weather events, climate change presents an urgent threat, an existential threat to my country.

In response to the climate emergency counties, including mine, are leveraging Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to achieve net-zero emissions and climate-resilient development.

**What does it take to make a net zero commitment meaningful?**

It takes:

* Clear definitions of scope and boundaries,
* High-quality, granular emissions data
* Tools for forecasting, tracking reduction pathways, and scenario modeling,
* And — just as importantly — transparency in methodology and reporting.

As the world races toward carbon neutrality, data is becoming one of our most powerful tools. From tracking emissions to identifying reduction opportunities and enabling transparent reporting, data lies at the heart of every credible net zero strategy. But as we all know, collecting the right data — and making sense of it — is no small task.

And yet, many organizations are still navigating fragmented data systems, inconsistent reporting standards, and rapidly evolving regulatory expectations. Whether it’s aligning with the GHG Protocol, preparing for Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive disclosures, or setting science-based targets with the Science Based Target Initiative — the data demands are increasing, and so is the pressure to get it right.

Today’s session is all about exploring how organizations can harness the power of data to meet their net zero commitments with accuracy, accountability, and agility. Whether you're just starting on your sustainability journey or deep into implementation, this discussion will provide valuable insights into best practices, challenges, and emerging technologies that are shaping the future of climate action.

I hope that we will all be able to learn from the work that countries are presenting in this session and be able to improve some of our statistical programs as a result. Please feel free to share your comments, questions and insights during the webinar, to make for a rich and informative session.

I will now hand over the floor to the session chair, Ms. Jacqui Vitas. She is the General Manager, The Economy and Environment Division at the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Jacqui has been the initiator and driving force behind this webinar series. Thank you