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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Conference of European Statisticians

Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

Nineteenth session

Geneva, 3 and 4 November 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the nineteenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9.30 a.m. on
Thursday, 3 November 2022

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the eighteenth session.
3. Implementing the mandate and terms of reference.
4. Ongoing developments with relevance for the work of the Joint Task Force.
5. Review of the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators.
6. Ongoing and planned capacity development activities.
7. Data needs, statistics and indicators to manage environment-related human health issues.
8. Other business.
9. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

According to its terms of reference (ECE/CEP/2017/12, annex), the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators assists the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in their efforts to:

- (a) Apply the Shared Environmental Information System principles and methodologies for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) core environmental indicators and data production in line with international statistical standards;
- (b) Analyse and communicate environmental data;



(c) Develop capacity to implement the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting;

(d) Develop capacity for the compilation and integration of environmental data in support of measuring progress in the context of sustainable development and green economy initiatives.¹

The Joint Task Force also assists the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment in evaluating the application of internationally accepted methodologies and statistical standards in data production and provides a forum for sharing experience on the communication of environmental information to users.² The Joint Task Force is open to environmental experts and statisticians from all ECE member States.

At its eighteenth session (Geneva, 18–19 October 2021), the Joint Task Force elected for a period of two years Ms. Ševala Korajčević (Bosnia and Herzegovina) as its Chair and Ms. Marina Klevakina (Russian Federation) and Mr. Oleg Prokopenko (Ukraine) as its Vice-Chairs.³

The work of the Joint Task Force is supported by the European Environment Agency, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Representatives of other international organizations dealing with environmental statistics are welcome to participate in the meetings of the Joint Task Force.

The nineteenth session of the Joint Task Force is expected to be held on 3–4 November 2022 as a 2-day meeting. The agenda and format of the session may need to be adjusted at a later stage given the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Chair will invite the Joint Task Force to adopt the agenda for its nineteenth session as set out in the present document.⁴

2. Adoption of the report of the eighteenth session

The secretariat will summarize the outcomes of the eighteenth session of the Joint Task Force as contained in the corresponding report (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2021/2) and invite the Joint Task Force to adopt the report. The secretariat will inform the Joint Task Force of the status of implementation of the decisions and recommendations made at the eighteenth session.

3. Implementing the mandate and terms of reference

At its twenty-seventh session (Geneva (hybrid), 3–5 November 2021), the Committee on Environmental Policy extended the mandate and terms of reference of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators to mid-2023,⁵ in alignment with the extension of the mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and the Environment for Europe ministerial process.⁶ At its special session (Nicosia, 3–4 October 2022), the Committee will be invited to extend the mandate and terms of reference of the Joint Task Force until the end of 2023.

¹ ECE/CEP/2017/12, annex, paras. 2–3.

² Ibid., para. 3 (a) and (d).

³ ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2021/2.

⁴ Documentation for the meeting and other relevant information will be posted on the meeting web page: <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Monitoring-and-Assessment/events/367215>.

⁵ ECE/CEP/2021/2, para. 47 (i).

⁶ See ECE/CEP/2020/2, para. 38 (c).

The secretariat will provide an overview of the proposed new mandate and terms of reference of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators beyond 2023 and information on the proposed conversion of the Joint Task Force into a standing body with a wider geographical and substantive coverage in order to address challenges of emerging policy themes.

The Joint Task Force will be invited to initiate a discussion on the possible strengthened and broadened mandate and terms of reference for the Joint Task Force in terms of geographic coverage and content beyond the end of 2023.

4. Ongoing developments with relevance for the work of the Joint Task Force

During its special session (Geneva (hybrid), 9–12 May 2022), the Committee on Environmental Policy welcomed the summary for policymakers from the pan-European environmental assessment and agreed to submit the summary for policymakers to the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022) as an official document. The Committee then requested the secretariat to publish the full pan-European environmental assessment in time for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.

The Committee also welcomed the information provided by the secretariat on key messages and recommendations on the Shared Environmental Information System (information paper No. 13) to be forwarded to the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference⁷ together with the final review report on the establishment of a Shared Environmental Information System in Europe and Central Asia (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2021/6).

The secretariat will summarize the main outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference with relevance for the Joint Task Force, including those related to the pan-European environmental assessment and the Shared Environmental Information System.

The secretariat will also provide an overview of the main outcomes of the twenty-fourth session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva (hybrid), 11–12 April 2022), the seventh Joint OECD/ECE Seminar on the Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (Geneva (online), 28 and 30–31 March 2022), the sixth Expert Meeting on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (Geneva, 5–6 May 2022), the second Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics (Beirut, 6–8 September 2022), the related outcomes of the seventieth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (Geneva, 20–22 June 2022) and the Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-related Statistics (Geneva, 29–30 September 2022).

Other international and regional organizations, including the European Environment Agency, OECD, UNEP and the United Nations Statistics Division, will be invited to give an update on their activities related to the production and sharing of environmental statistics and indicators.

The secretariat will also inform the meeting about activities of other related expert groups, such as the Task Force on Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters and the Task Force on Measuring Circular Economy.

5. Review of the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators

At the sixteenth session of the Joint Task Force (Geneva, 28–29 October 2019), the secretariat recalled that the Joint Task Force had requested the secretariat to revise the ECE

⁷ ECE/CEP/S/2022/2, para. 26 (d)–(g).

Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators⁸ to better inform global policies, link them with statistical frameworks and increase the user-friendliness of the metadata.⁹

At the eighteenth session of the Task Force, the secretariat presented the completed parts of the Revised Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2021/4), a list including 185 indicators with 24 additions, 22 proposals for modification and 27 proposals for discarding, based on a consultation on the revised list of indicators organized prior to the session, for discussion and approval. The Joint Task Force welcomed the progress made towards reviewing and finalizing the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators; pre-approved the finalized parts of the Guidelines and the proposed list of priority indicators, with final approval following after 21 days of silence procedure and taking into account comments received from members of the Joint Task Force; agreed that relevant indicators (for example, those needed for the pan-European environmental assessment) might be added at a later stage, after consultation with the Joint Task Force; took note of the ongoing work to update and finalize the remaining parts of the Guidelines; and agreed that metadata would be completed in English and Russian for all the approved indicators and provided to its members under a silence procedure.¹⁰

At the current session, the secretariat will present the latest developments related to the completion of the revision of the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2022/4) for discussion and approval. Furthermore, the Joint Task Force will be invited to discuss the next steps regarding the review process.

6. Ongoing and planned capacity development activities.

The secretariat, UNEP and other international and regional organizations, including the European Environment Agency and OECD, will report on ongoing and planned capacity development activities related to environmental statistics and indicators, the Shared Environmental Information System and Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The secretariat and Environment Agency Austria will provide an update on a European Union-funded project entitled “EU4 Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data” and other capacity-development activities, as appropriate.

Members of the Joint Task Force will be invited to present national capacity development activities and identify concrete capacity development needs.

7. Data needs, statistics and indicators to manage environment-related human health issues

At its eighteenth session, the Joint Task Force reiterated its invitation to its members, international organizations and partners to provide it with regular updates on recent developments related to environment and health statistics, indicators and data.¹¹

International and regional organizations and country representatives will be invited to share their experience in producing environment- and health-related data and indicators and their use for policymaking.

8. Other business

The Joint Task Force will be invited to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention. Members of the Joint Task Force wishing to propose items are invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

⁸ See www.unece.org/env/indicators.html.

⁹ See ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2019/2, para. 53.

¹⁰ ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2021/2, paras. 30 and 34.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, para. 44 (c).

9. Closure of the meeting

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the conclusions of the Joint Task Force, present the decisions and close the meeting. The report of the meeting will be finalized by the secretariat after the meeting and will be posted on the meeting web page in due course.

III. Organization of work

Detailed information on the organization of work will be released closer to the meeting date and will be posted on the meeting web page.
