



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 August 2025

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Conference of European Statisticians

Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

Twenty-second session

Geneva, 3 and 4 November 2025

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-second session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on
Monday, 3 November 2025

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
3. Adoption of the report of the twenty-first session.
4. Implementing the mandate and terms of reference.
5. Ongoing developments with relevance for the work of the Joint Task Force.
6. Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators: 2023 Edition.
7. Data needs, statistics and indicators to manage environment-related human health issues.
8. Ongoing and planned capacity-development activities.
9. Other business.
10. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

According to its terms of reference (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2021/3, annex), the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators aims to: strengthen environmental reporting and make environmental statistics available and comparable throughout the pan-European region in the long term; and assist the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in their efforts to:



- (a) Correctly apply the Shared Environmental Information System data methodologies in line with international statistical standards;
- (b) Analyse and communicate environmental data;
- (c) Implement the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting;
- (d) Apply environmental indicators 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.² The Joint Task Force is composed of experts representing national statistical offices and ministries or agencies dealing with environmental statistics and assessment from the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Other member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) are welcome to participate in the work.

The work of the Joint Task Force is supported by the European Environment Agency (EEA), 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 twenty-second session of the Joint Task Force is expected to be held on 3–4 November 2025 as a two-day meeting. Participation by eligible delegates is supported financially by Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Portugal, Switzerland and the European Union.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Chair will invite the Joint Task Force to adopt the agenda for its twenty-second session as set out in the present document.³

2. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

At its twentieth session (Geneva, 16–17 October 2023), the Joint Task Force re-elected Ms. Ševala Korajčević (Bosnia and Herzegovina) as its Chair and elected Mr. Irakli Apkhaidze (Georgia) as its Vice-Chair, both for a period of up to two years.⁴

The terms of reference of the Joint Task Force specify that it “shall elect its Chair and Vice-Chair for a term of two years, and these officers shall be eligible for re-election for one additional term”.⁵ Members of the Joint Task Force will need to elect a new Chair and elect or re-elect a Vice-Chair at the twenty-second session. Members are invited to start consultations on possible candidates prior to the session.

3. Adoption of the report of the twenty-first session

The secretariat will summarize the outcomes of the twenty-first session of the Joint Task Force (Geneva, 17–18 October 2024), as contained in the corresponding report (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2024/2), 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 twenty-first session.

¹ ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2021/3, annex, para. 6 (a)–(d).

² Ibid., para. 7.

³ Documentation for the meeting and other relevant information will be posted on the meeting web page: <https://unece.org/info/events/event/401487>.

⁴ ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2023/2, para. 10.

⁵ ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2021/3, annex, para. 13.

4. Implementing the mandate and terms of reference

At its nineteenth session (Geneva, 3–4 November 2022), the Joint Task Force supported its conversion into a standing body with a broadened mandate, scope and geographical coverage, named the Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators.⁶

The meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (Geneva, 15–16 February 2023) and the Conference of European Statisticians at its seventy-first plenary session (Geneva, 22–23 June 2023) endorsed the mandate and terms of reference for a Joint Working Group on Environmental Statistics and Indicators as a standing body under the Conference of European Statisticians and the Committee on Environmental Policy, pending approval also by the Committee.⁷

At its twenty-ninth session (Geneva, 6–8 November 2024), the Committee approved a cost-neutral conversion of the Joint Task Force into a Joint Working Group, with a continuing capacity development focus on countries with economies in transition and requested the submission of the draft mandate and terms of reference for consideration at the next session.⁸

The Joint Task Force is invited to discuss recent developments related to the draft mandate and terms of reference of the Joint Working Group as well as the outline of activities for 2026–2030, as set out in document ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2025/3. The document will be submitted to the Committee, at its thirtieth session (Geneva, 26–28 November 2025), for its consideration and possible approval, followed by its submission to the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe for its possible endorsement.

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

At its twentieth session, the Joint Task Force: committed to support the implementation of the outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022), subject to the availability of resources, and decided to integrate those outcomes into its work; invited the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment to regularly inform the Joint Task Force of relevant outcomes of its sessions and activities; and requested international and regional organizations and its members to continue to provide it with regular updates on recent developments in the implementation of their activities.⁹

The Joint Task Force also took note of the information provided on the priority areas of sustainable infrastructure, an e-waste management partnership, plastic waste and green finance, and decided to consider those areas to be priorities with regard to its work programme.¹⁰

The Committee on Environmental Policy at its twenty-ninth session (Geneva, 6–8 November 2024) agreed with the proposal by the Joint Task Force to conduct an in-depth review and set up an ad hoc expert group on sustainable and resilient infrastructure with the objective of drafting guidelines for measuring sustainable and resilient infrastructure.¹¹

The secretariat will provide an overview of activities implemented in support of the outcomes of the Nicosia Conference and the main outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 10–11 April 2025), including related to the progress review on the Shared Environmental Information

⁶ ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2022/2, para. 21 (a).

⁷ See ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/23, para. 37; and ECE/CES/105, para. 46.

⁸ ECE/CEP/2024/2, para. 40 (c).

⁹ ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2023/2, para. 29 (a), (d) and (g).

¹⁰ Ibid., para. 29 (f).

¹¹ ECE/CEP/2024/2, para. 33 (f).

System related to waste and circular economy and biodiversity, further planned progress reviews and the envisaged eighth pan-European environmental assessment.

The Joint Task Force will be invited to discuss a revised selection of environmental indicators (information document No. 2) that could inform the eighth pan-European assessment and that ECE member States are strongly encouraged to produce in support of improved decision-making.

The secretariat will furthermore provide an overview of the main outcomes of relevant meetings, including the tenth joint OECD/ECE seminar on the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (Geneva, 18–20 March 2025), the seventy-third plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (Geneva, 16–18 June 2025) and the thirteenth Expert Forum for Climate Change-Related Statistics (Geneva, 1–3 September 2025).

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

Furthermore, the secretariat will provide an overview of developments related to the in-depth review on sustainable and resilient infrastructure. The Joint Task Force will discuss recent related developments and next steps, including the possible setting up of an ad hoc expert group with the objective of drafting guidelines for measuring sustainable and resilient infrastructure.

Other international and regional organizations, including EEA, UNEP, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the World Health Organization, OECD and the United Nations Statistics Division, will be invited to provide an update on their activities related to the production and sharing of environmental statistics and indicators. The Joint Task Force will discuss and identify possible areas where collaboration could be strengthened (e.g., measuring circular economy, sustainable infrastructure, chemicals and waste).

Representatives of member States will then be invited to share the latest developments and experience regarding the production and use of environmental statistics and indicators with the Joint Task Force, including on air-, waste and circular economy-, biodiversity- and sustainable and resilient infrastructure-related statistics and indicators.

6. Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators: 2023 Edition

At its twenty-first session, the Joint Task Force welcomed the finalization and publication of the ECE *Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators: 2023 Edition*;¹² approved the new indicator metadata sheets, on the understanding that the amendments discussed by the Joint Task Force would be incorporated therein; requested the secretariat to continue updating the web page for the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators¹³ and to gradually upload the approved indicator metadata sheets; and also requested the secretariat to proceed with the production of additional indicator metadata sheets.¹⁴

At the current session, the secretariat will present the latest developments related to the Guidelines and production of metadata sheets for non-priority indicators, as well as their online availability. The Joint Task Force will be invited to discuss possible next steps.

¹² United Nations publication, Sales No. E.23.II.E.23.

¹³ See <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/guidelines-application-environmental-indicators>.

¹⁴ ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2024/2, para. 64.

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

At its twenty-first session, the Joint Task Force reiterated the importance of being regularly informed of developments in environment and health statistics and indicators, and encouraged further sharing of experiences from other countries on integrating environment and health statistics in future sessions.¹⁵

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. Ongoing and planned capacity-development activities

The secretariat, UNEP and other international and regional organizations, including EEA 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 programme entitled “EU4 Green Recovery East” 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

¹⁵ Ibid., para. 75 (c)–(d).