

Economic Commission for Europe

**Biennial Report
(12 April 2013-16 April 2015)**

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2015**

Supplement n° 17



United Nations

Economic Commission for Europe

Biennial Report
(12 April 2013-16 April 2015)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2015

Supplement n° 17



United Nations • New York and Geneva, 2015

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

E/2015/37 E/ECE/1472

UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION

ISSN 0251-0197

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1	5
II. Chapter		
I. Issues calling for the attention of the Economic and Social Council	2–5	5
II. Work of the Commission since its sixty-fifth session	6–7	5
III. Sixty-sixth session of the Commission		
A. Attendance and organization of work	8–15	6
B. Agenda	16	7
C. Election of Officers	17–19	7
D. Account of proceedings		
High-level dialogue	20–21	7
High-level thematic discussions	22–23	8
Discussion and endorsement of the outcome document	24–27	10
Progress in the implementation of the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE	28–30	10
Report on activities of the Executive Committee	31–33	11
Other issues calling for decision by the Commission	34–36	11
Other business	37	11
Adoption of the report of the session	38–39	11
IV. Outcomes of the sixty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Europe		11
Annexes		
I. Item 2: High-level Dialogue		13
II. Item 3: High-level thematic discussions		17
III. Item 4: Discussion and endorsement of the outcome document		31
IV. High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region		32
V. Item 5: Progress in the implementation of the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE		34
VI. Item 6: Report on activities of the Executive Committee		36
VII. The Geneva United Nations Charter on Sustainable Housing		37
VIII. Item 10: Adoption of the report of the session		45

IX. List of meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies
and conventions administered by the ECE secretariat between
12 April 2013 and 16 April 2015 46

Economic Commission for Europe

Biennial Report covering the period from 12 April 2013 to 16 April 2015

Introduction

1. The present Biennial Report is based on the report adopted unanimously by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at the fifth meeting of its sixty-sixth session on 16 April 2015.

Chapter I

Issues calling for the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The Commission endorsed the A (66) High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region (see annex IV) and the B (66) Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing as a non-legally binding document (see annex VII). The texts of A (66) and B (66) are contained in Chapter IV.

3. The Commission, as part of its high-level segment, discussed the theme “Committing to action on sustainable development in times of change”. (For the Chair’s summary of discussions, see annex I.)

4. Also as part of the high-level segment, the Commission discussed five topics: (a) Sustainable energy and resilient communities; (b) Sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources; (c) Connectivity and competitiveness for sustainable lives; (d) Measuring and monitoring sustainable development; and (e) Partnering for sustainable development. (For the Chair’s summary of discussions, see annex II).

5. The High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region (annex IV) is transmitted as a regional input to the 2015 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the 2015 Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council.

Chapter II

Work of the Commission since its sixty-fifth session

6. The Commission, the Executive Committee and the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held their meetings, including other meetings organized under their auspices, serviced by the ECE secretariat.

7. A list of meetings held since the sixty-fifth session is contained in annex IX, showing in each case the dates, the officers and the symbols of the report. These reports record the agreements reached and decisions taken.

Chapter III

Sixty-sixth session of the Commission

A. Attendance and organization of work

8. The sixty-sixth session of the Commission was held from 14 to 16 April 2015. At the opening session, the Commission heard opening remarks by the Chair, the Executive Secretary and the Acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

9. The sixty-sixth session of the Commission was chaired by the Netherlands with Vice-Chairs Switzerland and Turkmenistan. It was agreed that the United States of America would act as Rapporteur during the session.

10. The session was attended by representatives of the following States: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan.

11. Representatives of the Holy See attended under article 8 of the Commission's Terms of Reference.

12. The session was attended by representatives of the European Union.

13. Representatives of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO), and the following specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations were in attendance: Asian Development Bank, Council of Europe, European Environment Agency, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Trade Centre (ITC), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Customs Organization (WCO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

14. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Global New Car Assessment Programme (Global NCAP), European Cyclists' Federation, European Environmental Bureau, International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA), International Road Transport Union (IRU), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) International and WWF Russia.

15. A complete list of participants can be found on the ECE website.

B. Agenda

16. The Commission adopted its agenda (E/ECE/1471/Rev.1).
 1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
 2. High-level dialogue.
 3. High-level thematic discussions.
 4. Discussion and endorsement of the outcome document.
 5. Progress in the implementation of the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE.
 6. Report on activities of the Executive Committee.
 7. Other issues calling for decision by the Commission.
 8. Election of officers.
 9. Other business.
 10. Adoption of the report of the session.

C. Election of Officers (Agenda item 8)

17. The rules of procedure of the Commission, as revised at the sixty-third session, stipulate that “the Commission shall, at each biennial session, elect a country from among its members to hold the chair for the period of the biennium. The representative of the elected country will be the Chairperson. The Commission will also, at the same meeting, elect two countries whose representatives will become the Vice-Chairpersons for the period of the biennium. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission will also serve as the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Committee for the period of the biennium.”

18. The Commission elected Kazakhstan as Chair of the sixty-seventh session. Latvia and Switzerland were elected as Vice-Chairs of the sixty-seventh session.

19. Statements were made by Kazakhstan, Switzerland, Latvia, Turkmenistan and the Chair of the sixty-sixth session.

D. Account of proceedings

High-level dialogue (Agenda item 2)

20. For the consideration of this item the Commission had before it background document E/ECE/1473 from the secretariat, providing an overview on committing to action on sustainable development in times of change.

Panellists:

Mr. Gennady Gatilov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation

Mr. Serdar Atayev, Deputy Minister of Economy and Development, Turkmenistan

Ms. Nerissa J. Cook, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Department of State, United States

Mr. Nicholas Hanley, Acting Director, Directorate-General for the Environment, European Commission

Mr. Mahmud Mammad-Guliyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr. Thomas Fitschen, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Germany, on behalf of Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany

Moderator:

Mr. Roderick van Schreven, Ambassador of the Netherlands

21. The Chair's summary of discussions under this item is contained in annex I and will be transmitted by the Chair for information to the 2015 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the 2015 Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council.

High-level thematic discussions (Agenda item 3)

22. For the consideration of this item the Commission had before it background document E/ECE/1474 from the secretariat. The discussion was organized in thematic panels which were followed by discussions among participants. The following topics were addressed.

(a) Sustainable energy and resilient communities

Panellists:

Ms. Elena Szolgayova, Director General for Housing Policy and Urban Development, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Slovakia

Mr. Jérôme Schmitt, Senior Vice-President, Sustainable Development and Environment, Total S.A.

Mr. Chris Kuijpers, Director-General, Environment and International Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, the Netherlands

Mr. Gregory Dimitriadis, Chief Executive Officer, Athens Urban Transport Organization

Ms. Galina Khovanskaya, Chair, Social Housing Committee of the State Duma, Russian Federation

Ms. Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and Co-Chair Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University

Mr. Peter Droege, Professor, Sustainable Spatial Development, President Eurosolar, and Chair of the World Council for Renewable Energy, Asia Pacific

Mr. Barry Worthington, Executive Director, United States Energy Association

Moderator:

Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe

(b) Sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources

Panellists:

Ms. Tiina Rytälä, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

Mr. Janusz Zaleski, Deputy Director General, Polish State Forest, Poland

Ms. Victoria Elias, Programme Director, World Wide Fund for Nature, Russian Federation

Ms. Leilani Münter, race car driver and environmental activist, United States

Mr. David Simon, Professor, Royal Holloway University, London, United Kingdom, and Director, Mistra Urban Futures, Gothenburg

Moderator:

Mr. Roderick van Schreven, Ambassador of the Netherlands

(c) Connectivity and competitiveness for sustainable lives

Panellists:

Mr. Vladimir Yakunin, Chairman of the Union Internationale des Chemins de fer and Chief Executive Officer of Russian Railways

Mr. Niklas Gustavsson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Volvo Group, Chief of Sustainability

Mr. David Ward, Secretary General, Global New Car Assessment Programme

Mr. Jos Arts, Professor, Environment and Infrastructural Planning, Groningen University, and Strategic Advisor, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, the Netherlands

Mr. Glyn Hughes, Global Head of Cargo, International Air Transport Association

Moderator:

Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe

(d) Measuring and monitoring sustainable development

Panellists:

Mr. Enrico Giovannini, Professor, Chair of the Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development

Dr. Vanessa Lawrence, Co-Chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Mr. Pdraig Dalton, Chief Statistician, Ireland, and Chair of the ECE High-level Group on Modernization of statistical production

Dr. Peder Jensen, Head of Programme, Partnerships and Networks, European Environment Agency

Mr. Adonis F. Velegrakis, Professor in Marine Geology, Department of Marine Sciences, School of Environment, University of the Aegean, Greece

Moderator:

Mr. Roderick van Schreven, Ambassador of the Netherlands

(e) Partnering for sustainable development

Panellists:

Mr. James Stewart, Chairman of Global Infrastructure, KPMG and Chairman of the ECE Public-Private Partnership Advisory Board

Mr. Georg Kell, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact

Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Secretary General, International Road Union

Mr. Maksim Yermalovich, First Deputy Minister of Finance, Belarus

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director, International Union for the Conservation of Nature

Moderator:

Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe

23. The Chair's summary of discussions under this item is contained in annex II and will be transmitted by the Chair for information to the 2015 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the 2015 Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council.

Discussion and endorsement of the outcome document (Agenda item 4)

24. For the consideration of this item the Commission had before it document E/ECE/1475 "High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region".

A (66) Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region

25. The Commission decided to:

(i) Endorse the "High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region" (E/ECE/1475);

(ii) Agree that the statement outlines some of ECE main achievements and activities, but does not attempt to cover all ECE activities or areas of work, nor does it replace agreed mandates, including the 2005 Reform of ECE and the Decision A (65) of the Commission on the Outcome of the Review of the 2005 Reform;

(iii) Underline that it should not be seen as a prejudgment of negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals;

(iv) Transmit the statement as a regional input to the 2015 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the 2015 Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council.

26. Preceding the endorsement of the High-level statement, proposals and statements were made by the delegations of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, the European Union and its member States and the United States of America, which are recorded in annex III.

27. The text of the High-level statement is contained in annex IV.

Progress in the implementation of the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE (Agenda item 5)

28. For the consideration of this item the Commission had before it document E/ECE/1476 "Progress in the implementation of the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE".

29. Statements were made by representatives of the European Union and its member States, and the Russian Federation, which are recorded in annex V.

30. The Commission took note of the report and expressed its satisfaction with the implementation of the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE so far.

Report on activities of the Executive Committee (Agenda item 6)

31. For the consideration of this item the Commission had before it document E/ECE/1477 providing a report on the activities and the main achievements of the Executive Committee since the last session of the Commission.

32. Statements were made by representatives of the European Union and its member States, and the Russian Federation, which are recorded in annex VI.

33. The Commission took note of the report of activities of the Executive Committee. It thanked the Executive Committee and its Bureau for the work done during the intersessional period of the Commission.

Other issues calling for decision by the Commission (Agenda item 7)

34. For the consideration of this item the Commission had before it document E/ECE/1478/Rev.1 “The Geneva United Nations Charter on Sustainable Housing”.

B (66) Endorsement of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

35. The Commission decided to:

(i) Endorse the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing (E/ECE/1478/rev.1) as a non-legally binding document, and

(ii) Transmit the Charter as a regional input to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) as requested in paragraph 6 of decision 64/14 of the UN-Habitat Governing Council and as stipulated in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 68/239.

36. The text of the Charter is contained in annex VII.

Other business (Agenda item 9)

37. The Commission agreed to hold its sixty-seventh session in 2017.

Adoption of the report of the session (Agenda item 10)

38. Statements were made by the European Union and its member States, and the Russian Federation, which are recorded in annex VIII.

39. The report of the sixty-sixth session was adopted.

Chapter IV

Outcomes of the sixty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Europe

A (66) Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region

The Commission decided to:

(i) Endorse the “High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region” (E/ECE/1475);

(ii) Agree that the statement outlines some of ECE’s main achievements and activities, but does not attempt to cover all ECE activities or areas of work, nor does it replace agreed

mandates, including the 2005 Reform of ECE and the Decision (A) 65 of the Commission on the Outcome of the Review of the 2005 Reform;

(iii) Underline that it should not be seen as a prejudgment of negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals;

(iv) Transmit the statement as a regional input to the 2015 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the 2015 Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council.

B (66) Endorsement of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

The Commission decided to:

(i) Endorse the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing (E/ECE/1478/rev.1) as a non-legally binding document, and

(ii) Transmit the Charter as a regional input to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) as requested in paragraph 6 of decision 64/14 of the UN-Habitat Governing Council and as stipulated in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 68/239.

Annex I

Item 2: High-level Dialogue

Chair's summary of the discussions

The high-level dialogue was moderated by Mr. Roderick van Schreven, Ambassador of the Netherlands.

Mr. Gennady Gatilov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation, emphasized that the world is still recovering from the 2008 global financial and economic crisis. A new paradigm of economic relations is needed to boost economic growth and implement effectively the post-2015 development agenda, including by addressing unemployment, high debt and declining living standards. Economic cooperation should be guided by seeking common ground and mutual benefits and not by protectionist practices and unfair competition. The Russian Federation attaches great importance to collective action with its neighbors and major partners. The Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), which came into being on 1 January 2015, will make a significant contribution to the elimination of barriers and the promotion of economic growth. The formation of EEU sets a stage for a Pan-European economic space from Lisbon to Vladivostok. A starting point for this endeavour could be the establishment of an EEU-EU free trade zone. ECE can help to bring the pan-European region to a new level of economic interaction, in particular through its work on trade and transport connectivity, promotion of sustainable energy and transboundary environmental problems, which could bridge different integration processes. Activities related to innovation and public-private partnerships, sustainable forest management and housing also deserve further impetus. Russia remains committed to continue its support of cooperation within ECE, including through its annual voluntary contribution of \$1.2 million.

Mr. Serdar Atayev, Deputy Minister of Economy and Development, Turkmenistan, underlined that cooperation is the basis for prosperity at all levels. Given the complexity of the tasks ahead, there is a need to create a suitable basis for cooperation. ECE provides a flexible platform for cooperation, allowing rapid reaction to pressing issues. The current stage of socio-economic development in Turkmenistan is characterized by high growth rates. There are a number of ongoing initiatives on energy, privatization, electricity, transport, infrastructure and innovation that will support further development. Turkmenistan aims to bring the national interest together with the interest of the global community as a whole. Safe transport and securing reliable supplies of energy is important for global development. Turkmenistan has proposed a substantive dialogue on the diversification of energy export routes. Turkmenistan is also involved in a number of other issues with global significance, such as food security, climate change and the rational use of water resources, including preserving the Caspian Sea. Turkmenistan is an active participant in global processes and will continue to cooperate at all levels, including with ECE.

Ms. Nerissa J. Cook, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Department of State, United States, stressed the importance of ECE work in today's world of profound technological and economic changes. ECE has shown a long-standing commitment to sustainable development. For instance, 10 years ago, ECE launched the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, which provides current and future generations with valuable knowledge on sustainable development issues. The work of ECE is therefore very relevant in view of the post-2015 development agenda, to which the United States is very committed. ECE is well placed to play an important role

as a regional platform to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation, including by setting standards and conducting regional performance reviews. Monitoring progress across countries will be critical and should be done on the basis of what already exists to avoid duplications. Regionally-based monitoring also provides another layer of accountability and credibility and ECE has a positive track record on monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, which can be capitalized on for the SDGs. It is also important to strengthen linkages with the other Regional Commissions and international organizations, as it is being done with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), while seeking to avoid duplication. The experience of ECE in capacity-building in statistics could also be shared with other regions and could serve as a broader model for other Regional Commissions. ECE also has a role to play to integrate the private sector in a more robust way, which is essential to meet the SDGs. In an era when 53 of the 100 largest economies in the world are companies and one company alone can reach 4 billion customers – nearly 60 per cent of the global population – working with the private sector is no longer a luxury, but a necessity. In addition, official development assistance (ODA) is no longer the main driving force for international giving. ECE work on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) contributes to engage the private sector in meeting development goals.

Mr. Nicholas Hanley, Acting Director, Directorate-General for the Environment, European Commission, stressed the commitment of the EU and its member States to meet an ambitious post-2015 agenda and highlighted a number of elements that are essential in this regard. Effective implementation requires national ownership and accountability. Moreover, policy coherence is crucial to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development at all stages of domestic and international policy-making. A new global partnership for sustainable development is needed to implement the new agenda, but also partnerships with civil society, parliaments, local authorities and the private sector. In the ECE region, there is a wealth of experience in developing such collaborative networks and alliances, which can be shared with other regions. Monitoring and review mechanisms to ensure accountability will be key in following up the post-2015 agenda. Synergies and cooperation between existing frameworks at global, regional and national level should be strengthened. At the global level, the key oversight role of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) was emphasized. The regional level could provide a useful platform for peer review and learning, and encourage countries to set ambitious targets and stimulate implementation. Work at the regional level could also help to ensure progress on transboundary issues and on regionally shared targets.

Mr. Mahmud Mammad-Guliyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan, emphasized the importance of setting measurable targets to achieve concrete results in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. A strong framework for monitoring and review is crucial for effective follow-up. As an emerging donor, Azerbaijan is engaged in South-South Triangular Cooperation. Transport and information and communication technologies (ICT) play an important role for socio-economic development. The Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway Project (TASIM) is a significant PPP project that will make a positive contribution to the post-2015 development agenda. Azerbaijan proposes to link this project with the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) and the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC). Azerbaijan welcomes the opening up of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements for global accession, but remains confident that obtaining meaningful results in the region primarily rests on participation of all members of the region. Addressing transboundary issues regarding environmental protection and water use are paramount. Therefore, Azerbaijan called on ECE to encourage neighbouring riparian countries to accede to the existing multilateral environmental agreements under ECE. Conflicts remain a major impediment for regional cooperation and comprehensive

development of individual member States. Respect for territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders of member States are essential preconditions for cooperation, integration and further development. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the immediate resolution of the military conflict that makes it difficult for Azerbaijan to address the challenges reflected in the sustainable development agenda. Corruption and other organized crimes, such as tax evasion and money laundering, are among other significant threats for the successful implementation of the post-2015 development agenda that need to be addressed.

Mr. Thomas Fitschen, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany, on behalf of Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany, emphasized that 2015 is a crucial year for the international negotiations on climate change and sustainable development. The ECE region, accounting for about half of global greenhouse gas emissions, carries a special responsibility. The proposed 17 Sustainable Development Goals include ambitious targets, which require transboundary cooperation as well as capacity-building. ECE could support its member States in the transformation towards sustainable development by developing a common understanding on goals and reviewing the coherence of national strategies, involving the private sector to trigger sustainable investments and business models, and monitoring and reviewing the implementation of global policies at the regional level. ECE is well positioned to contribute in all these areas, for example, by developing standards for energy efficiency in buildings or through the work under its environmental conventions. Relevant experiences from this region should be shared with other United Nations Regional Commissions.

The interactive discussion from the floor evolved around a number of key themes. In particular, one or more speakers and participants raised the following points:

1. The proposed SDGs set out an ambitious agenda in response to the global challenges of poverty, climate change and sustainable development. The new framework will guide domestic policies as well as international commitments and coordination mechanisms.
2. Implementing the new development framework will require breaking down sectoral silos, ensuring national ownership and a new global partnership. The rule of law, human rights and participatory democracy will be key enablers for progress towards sustainable societies.
3. ECE is well placed to play a leading role for the implementation of the SDGs in its areas of expertise in the region and beyond. ECE has a competitive edge as a multi-sectoral, results-oriented organization that helps translate global goals into concrete action at the national and local levels through standards, norms, guidelines and policies. Through this, ECE also contributes to regional economic integration and stability.
4. Effective data and monitoring systems are important drivers for the implementation of sustainable development, to which ECE will continue to contribute.
5. Monitoring and review of the post-2015 agenda should be based on existing instruments, which need to be linked in order to avoid duplications. One proposal was to consider a meeting of all Bureaux of ECE legal instruments to discuss related issues. Existing data and analytical activities of United Nations organizations should also be better connected.
6. Forging partnerships with civil society, the private sector and other United Nations and regional organizations is essential in order to engage all stakeholders in achieving change. The process of strengthening the involvement of civil society and the private sector in domestic and international policy-making should therefore be continued. Non-state actors should also be involved in the post-2015 monitoring and review mechanism at the

national, regional and global levels. This will enhance the depth and credibility of such mechanisms.

7. Cooperation of ECE within the United Nations system and with other international and regional bodies should be continued and strengthened in order to pool expertise and realize synergies. One example is closer cooperation with UNEP on environmental matters.

8. Building concrete partnerships with the private sector to achieve specific objectives is an important means of mobilizing knowledge, technology and financing. ECE could serve as an early warning system regarding SDG implementation that helps the private sector to focus its attention. The private sector can benefit from such partnerships by improving corporate sustainability practices. To harness the full involvement of businesses, it is necessary to remove overly restrictive regulations that may act as barriers to private sector engagement.

9. ECE should improve its outreach towards the public, parliaments, companies, policy-makers at all levels and other relevant stakeholders about its work and the tangible impact on people's lives. Best practices and results of ECE work should be shared with other parts of the world and with the other United Nations Regional Commissions.

Annex II

Item 3: High-level thematic discussions

Chair's summary of the discussions

Panel A: Sustainable energy and resilient communities

The panel session was moderated by Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of ECE.

Ms. Elena Szolgayova, Director General for Housing Policy and Urban Development, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Slovakia, spoke on the topic of housing and urban development and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing. One hundred million people in the ECE region spend more than 40 per cent of their disposable income on housing. High housing costs leave limited resources for low-income households to cover other basic needs, such as food, health, clothing and transportation. To help countries address these problems, member States of the ECE region developed the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing as an outcome of five years of negotiations. The main purpose of this document on sustainable housing is to ensure the access to decent, affordable and healthy housing in the ECE region. The charter is based on four key principles: environmental protection, economic effectiveness, social inclusion and participation, and cultural adequacy. It is important to formulate high ambitions and then to work practically to implement them.

Mr. Jérôme Schmitt, Senior Vice-President of Sustainable Development and Environment with Total, spoke on the topic of changing business models for smarter energy systems. Mr. Schmitt commented that Europe has strong ambitions to address climate change and this is both a challenge and an opportunity – business-minded solutions with a long-term perspective are needed. Concerns about security of supply are detrimental to policies to address climate change. The focus on energy security by individual countries is leading to increased use of coal – this trend goes against global intentions to address climate change, whereas switching to gas would enable significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. In order to act business needs clear and practical policy signals such as a real price on carbon or performance standards. Innovation will be essential to meet long term energy system and climate goals. Innovation will come not only from rich countries, but also from developing countries and emerging economies. Four tools are needed for progress: stimulating innovation, encouraging behavioural change and promoting public awareness, building flexibility into the greater energy system, and lastly multi-stakeholder collaboration. The challenges of climate change and sustainable development demand strengthened intergovernmental cooperation and the development of a pan-European energy policy.

Mr. Chris Kuijpers, Director-General, Environment and International Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, the Netherlands, spoke on the topic of the Dutch Green Deal and the Energy Agreement. Cross-border challenges call for cross-border solutions, which is why the Netherlands supports the sustainable energy agenda. International climate agreements are essential but actions are required to make them operational. Smart coalitions with international outreach are needed to achieve the desired outcomes. Mr. Kuijpers presented several examples of programmes in the Netherlands where the government has cooperated with private sector and civil society to improve energy sustainability, create new jobs, and increase sustainability of economic growth. Such cooperation is crucial if economic growth and climate change prevention are to be

achieved simultaneously. Challenges related to climate change are enormous but they also present opportunities for new business and economic growth. It is possible to achieve more progress through energy saving and renewable energy solutions. More involvement, more innovation, and more space for experimenting are important if the world is to move from ambition to action.

Mr. Gregory Dimitriadis, Chief Executive Officer, Athens Urban Transport Organization, spoke on the topic of urban transport. Public transport is a necessity for resilient communities. Funding for public transport is needed, but there are multiple benefits from it, including better health, a cleaner environment, and economic growth. Investments in sustainable fleets are important, especially as these investments are paying off relatively quickly. Cities with strong public transport systems provide better business opportunities and a better quality of life. A sign of ‘advanced cities’ is not poor citizens driving cars but rich people using public transport. Public transport also allows introducing the use of cleaner energies. Choices made now will greatly affect a community’s future.

Ms. Galina Khovanskaya, Chair, Social Housing Committee of the State Duma, Russian Federation, spoke on the topic of housing. The Russian Federation is actively implementing the principles and actions outlined in the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, which includes issues of social inclusion. The Russian Federation provides support for affordable housing and works to meet the housing needs of various social groups, including population with low incomes. The state-supported programmes include activities on improving the energy performance of dwellings, which contribute to combating energy poverty and improving residents’ quality of life, affordable rental housing and housing renovations for low-income population. Russia is developing a legislative framework to support the low-income population. In the near future a programme on housing cooperatives will be considered.

Ms. Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and Co-Chair Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University, spoke on the topic of urbanization and cities. Ms. Sassen works with biologists and materials scientists to take an alternative perspective on the urban element. She commented on two key points. First, cities are energy systems – albeit destructive ones, meaning they use tremendous amounts of energy and have negative impacts on the environment. Second, there is a need to re-code how we plan, construct and live in cities. Walls, roofs and roads, essentially all urban surfaces can be used to generate energy, and bacteria can be used to seal concrete surfaces or to produce bio-degradable plastic from organic brown water; hence a waste product becomes a resource. Consideration should be given to the fact that people of different age groups live in cities, including children and the elderly. It is important to use a transformative design of cities and housing to accommodate the needs of different groups of the population, including especially of ageing population, and harness their collective, on-the-ground knowledge to plan and build better cities.

Mr. Peter Droege, Professor, Sustainable Spatial Development, President Eurosolar, and Chair of the World Council for Renewable Energy, Asia Pacific, spoke on the need for considering both old and new technologies to meet global climate goals. Mr. Droege strongly supported the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, highlighting its innovative, comprehensive and dynamic nature. The Charter provides an example of the potential for change that in some cases is already underway. Some regions are already considering and implementing the needed changes. Communities planned and developed based on inexpensive fossil fuels need to be reconceived as resilient communities. Some countries are trying to develop along a model that is fossil fuel dependent, and as a consequence the costs of fossil fuel imports in some cases exceed the value of exports. The current levels of CO₂ concentrations are beyond worrisome; we should therefore be aiming towards a world of 100 per cent renewables. Mr. Droege expressed scepticism about carbon

capture and storage (CCS) technology. Instead, he favoured bio-sequestration and bio-regenerative regions that can use 2000 year-old technologies and turn soils into carbon sinks. Countries should aim towards de-fossilization, rather than use technologies that enable ongoing use of fossil fuels.

Mr. Barry Worthington, Executive Director, United States Energy Association, spoke on the role of fossil fuels in meeting the global CO₂ challenge. Technological innovation will be key to addressing climate change. Innovation is needed across a basket of technologies, both existing and new ones. There is no one solution but we must use a broad range of solutions to tackle climate change. Fossil fuels will continue to be part of the global and regional energy mix. Their use is driven by growing populations and growing energy demand that underpins economic activity and social development. Estimates indicate that they will still make up between 40–60 per cent of primary energy shares by 2050. If fossil fuels are to be used sustainably, CCS in his view will be an essential technology. Existing technological and financial challenges related to CCS can be solved, and ways should be found how to finance development and deployment.

In the ensuing interactive discussion from the floor, one or more speakers raised the following points:

1. Sustainable energy is essential for economic development. Even a country with significant energy sources will need clean technology and innovation and will need to develop renewable energy sources. More appropriate legislation and regulations could be developed to support transformative investments and attract foreign direct investment in clean technologies. Countries with a significant share of power generation from coal may not be able to shift to cleaner energy sources quickly, given the economic ramifications, but nevertheless need to examine existing pricing policies. Intergovernmental cooperation in the ECE region should be strengthened to achieve sustainable energy for all, and ECE should intensify the work of its Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies.
2. The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing is an important document addressing social, economic, environmental and cultural challenges related to housing in the region. It is already being used in some countries. The Charter presents integrated solutions to the many challenges affecting the housing sector in the region, and the many impacts they have for instance on the health of citizens, their consumption patterns, their energy needs and consumption, etc. The Charter shows that housing is a complex issue related to many aspects of the economy and therefore requires comprehensive planning instruments and solutions in different sectors.
3. Urban transport and urban mobility are critical components of sustainable energy and resilient communities. There is a need for sustainable planning of urban, regional and international transport systems. New technologies for transport are emerging, offering multiple benefits of safe and clean transport. Governments will need to harmonize their transport policies, and support and manage innovation. With its experience and multiple legal instruments in transport, ECE must play a key role.
4. Fossil fuels will continue to have an important share in the fuel mix of the region. Clean coal and other fossil fuel technologies will need to progress, as will further development of the United Nations system for resource classification for energy. Natural gas will be an important catalyst in reducing the environmental footprint of the energy sector and will continue to play an important role in the future in the chemicals industry. There is support for the work of ECE on both renewables and fossil fuel technology, as it provides an important platform for sharing experience and best practices. Smart systems, planning and design, such as smart grids, that integrate economic, environmental and social aspects are essential. There is a need for more consistent and systemic action as well as for strengthened international collaboration.

5. Interconnectivity and interdependence in attaining sustainable energy applies not only geographically for the pan-European region, but also sectorally across energy, transport, cities, and other sectors.

6. The challenge of energy security has become acute in the region. In particular, Central Asia is looking for ways to resolve its challenges on a regional basis, including not only sustainable energy, but also trade/transit, economics, and water resources. The development of a regional energy market would have important consequences for energy use, including hydropower.

Panel B: Sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources

The panel session was moderated by Mr. Roderick van Schreven, Ambassador of the Netherlands.

Ms. Tiina Ryttilä, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland, said that Finland was very dependent on its natural resources; it has large forest coverage, and its forest-based industry is essential for the country's economy. Finland is very committed to the sustainable management of forests and other natural resources and welcomes the work of ECE on water and forests. The forest-based industry managed to renew itself and through innovation created new products to put the bio-economy in practice, like biofuels. To increase the relevance of the forest sector in a green economy, the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, adopted on 13 December 2013 at the joint session of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission, provides an overall framework for how the sector can become even greener. It contains a wide range of actions for key actors in the sector and is also a tool for communication and awareness-raising. Finland is committed to the Action Plan. On the global level, recently ECE and FAO published a landmark study on trends and challenges in the achievement of the global objectives on forests, and she hoped the study could be a good basis for discussion at the United Nations Forum on Forests and for implementation of the United Nations post-2015 agenda. Finally, Ms. Ryttilä emphasized the relevance of the ECE Water Convention and saw potential synergies between it and the UN Water Convention.

Mr. Janusz Zaleski, Deputy Director General, Polish State Forest, Poland, presented the Polish Forest Exhibition, prepared on the occasion of the International Day of Forests at the Palais des Nations on 21 March, which is a way to demonstrate the economic, social and environmental functions of forests. There is still much work to be done going forward in the forest sector in ECE. However, as the recent ECE/FAO report showed, the region is moving in a good direction. The concept of sustainable forest management is not a new one — it has been around in Europe for three hundred years now — but progress needs to be made on its measurement through a solid set of indicators. In the area of environmental agreements a lot remains to be done. It is true that, after Rio, international commitments and goals have not been achieved. Governments and other key stakeholders have to change their mindsets and their way of work. Cooperation and understanding and voluntary agreements are a good way forward in the region in the forest sector. Poland is satisfied with the effective work and results of the Joint ECE-FAO forestry and timber section.

Ms. Victoria Elias, Programme Director, World Wide Fund for Nature, Russian Federation, noted that the root cause of biodiversity loss was generally outside the scope of environmental agreements: biodiversity loss is economically driven and cross-cutting at different levels. However, ECE is uniquely positioned in the European region to address that challenge, with its strong environmental mandate and committees working under its multilateral environmental agreements. The engagement of ECE in species conservation

will be valuable for protecting the region's natural capital. The issue is how to protect biodiversity while allowing for development. In that connection, ECE could serve as a regional forum where all issues related to sustainable development goals could be discussed and where the discussions would be open, as provided for by the Aarhus Convention. The Conference of European Statisticians will also help to ensure that the indicators are developed in a smart way. The Environment for Europe process is a ministerial process, and it should continue, but it should continue in cooperation with other partners: civil society, the private sector, but also academia. Areas where ECE should become involved and lead the way include the evaluation of ecosystem services, how to reduce the emission of harmful substances in extraction processes, voluntary certification and greening public procurement, preventing the illegal wildlife trade and the development of smart indicators for the implementation of the sustainable development goals in the region.

Ms. Leilani Münter, race car driver and environmental activist, United States, said that the two worlds of race cars and the environment worked together for her: her profession as a race car driver enables her to reach 75 million fans in the United States on environmental issues, a fan base that is generally hard to reach by an environmentalist. She also tries to reduce her carbon footprint wherever she can. Since 2007, she has protected an acre of rainforest for every hour she sat in the car; she uses a solar-powered electric car, and she is also a vegan. In that regard, more greenhouse gases are generated by food production than by the entire transportation sector. The only way to change things is to engage with people that do not share the same beliefs. To address apathy and ignorance it is essential to educate people. Ms. Münter also considered it important to work to make the technologies that she is using more affordable to everyone. The Tesla technology she uses in her car is expensive now — just as solar power has been 10 years ago; but the more people use those renewable sources of energy and stop using fossil fuels, the cheaper those technologies will become. The technology is there – it is time to act.

Mr. David Simon, Professor, Royal Holloway University, London, United Kingdom, and Director, Mistra Urban Futures, Gothenburg, speaking on environmental challenges faced by cities, noted that cities today often spread across political boundaries, with urban corridors crossing into different countries. ECE regional agreements therefore play a crucial role in managing them. Most people live in urban settings, but yet it is not possible to live safely in urban areas without an integrated and more sustainable relationship with the natural environment. It is only by seeing cities not as urban islands but as integrated parts of the larger systems that environmental issues associated with them can be resolved. It is also important that people are involved in finding those sustainable solutions. Another issue to be addressed is how to retain flexibility and mobility in an urban setting without destroying the environment. With regard to the SDGs, which will be applied globally, and the proposed Goal 11 on urban areas, he was concerned about developing urban indicators that are globally relevant. He also noted that green economy is not a magic bullet — sustainable development requires looking at the life cycle of commodities. Finally, a long-term commitment is needed to address the environmental challenges today; for this, regional and international agreements are needed.

In the ensuing interactive discussion from the floor, one or more speakers raised the following points:

1. There needs to be a legal framework and a comprehensive approach to sustainable management of natural resources, as well as to combat the illegal trade in species in all its forms, which destroys biodiversity. Those regulatory instruments also need to be combined with economic instruments to ensure that they are enforced — such as payment for ecosystem services and the polluter-pays principle.
2. Many ECE conventions have the word “transboundary” in their name, which underscores the need to have neighbouring countries join them for them to be effective.

A more active role of ECE in encouraging neighbouring States to join the ECE multilateral environmental agreements is therefore important.

3. The many international legal instruments in place to protect biodiversity, as well as European regional instruments, so far have not led to a halt of biodiversity loss. The will of governments is needed to protect biodiversity, and governments need to integrate the economic element of biodiversity into their policies and legislation.

4. ECE, in cooperation with FAO, is playing an important role in sustainable forest management; it is desirable to formalize a legally binding agreement in the pan-European region soon.

5. There is a need for the actual implementation of the environmental agreements already in place. At the same time soft law and voluntary engagement of countries are extremely important and constitute a less confrontational way of protecting the environment and ecosystems in the country.

Panel C: Connectivity and competitiveness for sustainable lives

The panel discussion was moderated by Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of ECE.

Mr. Vladimir Yakunin, Chairman of the Union Internationale des Chemins de fer (UIC) and CEO of Russian Railways, highlighted the importance of rail transport in promoting better connectivity, especially for landlocked countries, as well as the need to develop a unified international regulatory framework. ECE has a role to play in the regional, interregional and intercontinental cooperation needed to support unrestricted freight and passenger traffic for developing landlocked countries. A number of significant projects are currently underway in the Russian Federation to promote sustainable development and connectivity, such as the Trans-Eurasian zone Razvitie project that aims at upgrading the entire infrastructure of the country and the continuing development of the supply chain between China and Europe. Issues of legal harmonization in the field of rail transport and transit need to be tackled and progress has been made within the framework of the ECE Inland Transport Committee. As chair of UIC, Mr. Yakunin also called for further strengthening of cooperation between UIC and ECE. A high priority area is the formulation of a global policy for railways and the harmonization of norms and standards.

Mr. Niklas Gustavsson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Volvo Group and Chief of Sustainability, highlighted the role of vehicle regulations for fair trade and the link between vehicles and sustainable mobility management. Mobility is a prerequisite for competitiveness and an important enabler of growth and welfare. At the same time, transport possibilities are restricted in many places due to poor infrastructure. Restraints on mobility have a negative impact on industries and increase emissions, noise, accident risk and social costs. Information and communication technology (ICT) has great potential to increase transport efficiency, for example through platooning and automated driving; telematics; Bus Rapid Transit; Intelligent Transport Systems solutions; and City Mobility Programs. At the same time, the speaker cautioned that technology-based solutions will require new legislative frameworks to enable them to be introduced publicly on a large scale. Current legislation is often not supportive to the introduction of new technologies. For example, there are currently discussions on amending the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic (Vienna Convention) which places full legal responsibility always on the driver in order to find the right equilibrium for supporting the development of technologies for automated driving. Mr. Gustavsson concluded by stressing that the industry needs consistency in policies, long-term continuity and stability to be able to invest in and develop sustainable transport solutions.

Mr. David Ward, Secretary General, Global New Car Assessment Programme (NCAP), started by noting that every day 3,000 people die in car accidents and many more are injured. About 50 per cent of the fatalities are vehicle occupants. This is why the two global agreements on vehicles regulations, the 1958 Agreement and the 1998 Agreement, are very important. Yet, a paradox is emerging. The production of vehicles in Middle Income Countries (MICs) continues to increase and reached 50 per cent of global production in 2013. Yet this trend has not been accompanied by a similar increase in the accession of MICs to the two global agreements, which negatively impacts road safety. Mr. Ward encouraged ECE and the Inland Transport Committee to strengthen efforts to make United Nations transport agreements administered by ECE more open and inclusive. The alternative risk is that MICs will develop parallel standards and regulations with huge losses of effectiveness and efficiency at a global scale. These efforts would be further supported by an enabling SDG framework and for that purpose strengthening the position of transport in the SDGs would be helpful. Mr. Ward also highlighted the role of NCAP and its contribution in promoting road safety. Regulatory standards work as an industry push factor while NCAP focuses on consumer information to develop market demand for road safety – the pull factor. This successful combination of push and pull factors now needs to be extended to MICs.

Mr. Jos Arts, Professor, Environment and Infrastructural Planning, Groningen University, and Strategic Advisor, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, the Netherlands, noted the need for finding a balance between the future mobility of freight and people. To illustrate issues and problems in current transport planning, Mr. Arts used the case of highway planning in the city of Utrecht. An example of how to achieve better coordination of different transport modalities, infrastructure and spatial development focusing especially on urban regions is that of Rotterdam. Rotterdam provides insights on how different levels of scale interact: local, city level, the level of urban metropolitan regions and (inter)national corridor level. Socio-economic development of city-regions is enhanced by multi-modal accessibility and connectivity. There is an international initiative for the exchange of experiences, practice and expertise among European countries about the topic of “Networking for Urban Vitality”. Mr. Arts also pointed out that to act globally, one should not only think globally but also look at the local dimension and impacts. ECE could contribute to this by increasing its role as a facilitator of learning by diffusing good practices and know-how.

Mr. Glyn Hughes, Global Head of Cargo, International Air Transport Association (IATA), stressed that IATA is committed to an integrated approach where air cargo supports the three aspects of people, planet and profit. To this end, the aviation industry works very closely with trade, freight forwarders, customs, trucking industry and other stakeholders as well as with intergovernmental partners such as the United Nations and ECE. IATA is, in particular, committed to supporting economic development for countries by creating improved connectivity and supporting greater competitiveness through paper-free systems and the harmonization of regulations. In support of these objectives, ECE and its member States can: ensure that existing ECE tools, standards and recommendations are implemented (e.g. Harmonization Convention, Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide); monitor and provide capacity-building support; support efforts to liberalize the air cargo industry to increase competition and reduce trade costs; work with IATA and others to create new global standards focused on multi-modal solutions; promote automated Single Windows and Smart border solutions (one stop controls); exploit synergies with other international organizations; and work together to promote each other’s tools, using the provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement as an overarching guide. Recognizing that both IATA and ECE are striving for many of the same goals, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed between the ECE and IATA will be a strong step forward.

In the ensuing interactive discussion from the floor, one or more speakers raised the following points:

1. A concrete way in which the ECE Inland Transport Committee supports seamless connectivity and competitiveness throughout the region, including access to markets, is by coordinating work on a Trans-European network for motorways (TEM) and rail (TER) in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project in the Euro-Asian region has identified main Euro-Asian road and rail routes for priority development and cooperation. Nine rail and nine road corridors that link Europe and Asia have been identified. There are 311 proposed projects by the participating countries of total cost of \$215 billion. The construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars new railway line that was included in the ECE TER masterplan as an important regional project is a sign of support to the efforts undertaken by ECE to develop Euro-Asian Transport Links.
2. ECE work on strengthening border crossing facilitation and the TIR Convention is a solid contribution to promoting connectivity and competitiveness. The TIR Convention is one of the most successful international transport conventions and is so far the only universal customs transit system in existence.
3. Transport is important for the SDGs and ECE and the Inland Transport Committee should have a strong role in implementing transport-related SDGs, particularly on road safety, sustainable mobility, including urban transport, and infrastructure.
4. ECE should complete the development of the Unified Railway Law for the promotion of competitiveness and connectivity, and to strengthen the implementation of the SDGs.
5. The General Assembly Resolution on the *Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development* of December 2014 was the first resolution to cover this strategic area. It stemmed from the High-level International Conference on the Role of Transit Transport Corridors in ensuring International Cooperation, Sustainability and Sustainable Development, jointly organized by ECE with the Government of Turkmenistan, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2014, and called for more intensive cooperation in border crossing and trade facilitation.
6. In the context of the development of eTIR, a tangible way of bringing about the digitalization of customs procedures is the pilot project between Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran which was welcomed by the Commission. Information and communication technologies play a key role in the expansion of connectivity in the region.
7. The question was posed as to whether current and future trends of car manufacturing were likely to result in future declines in the production and purchase of cars, thus reducing congestion, pollution and accidents. Although these scenarios may be true for some advanced economies, current mainstream projections at a global level suggest the opposite trend (i.e. increases in car production globally). These projections necessitate that policy makers and industry alike continue to pursue active policies to improve car safety and environmental performance.
8. Existing transport solutions should be used more efficiently. Member States that have not ratified the Montreal Convention (the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air) are requested to do so. The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) should be ratified and paper-free systems should be introduced by member States. Even in the changing context of economic, social and environmental areas, all modes of transportation remain very important.

9. In addition to air cargo, tourism related to the aviation industry generates another \$1.4 trillion in Gross Domestic Product for countries. Air connectivity has an important bearing on several SDGs. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is continuing to help its member States achieve sustainable transport, tourism and trade in collaboration with other United Nations agencies.

Panel D: Measuring and monitoring sustainable development

The panel session was moderated by Mr. Roderick van Schreven, Ambassador of the Netherlands.

Mr. Enrico Giovannini, Professor, Chair of the Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, noted that statistics is at the core of the post-2015 agenda and the SDGs. The framework for measuring sustainable development prepared jointly by ECE, Eurostat and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has contributed substantially to the current process of establishing a monitoring framework and indicators for SDGs. A revolution is needed in the way data are produced to be able to measure and monitor the SDGs. Timeliness is one of the biggest challenges. The data cycle has to be aligned with the decision cycle to allow taking informed decisions. Another challenge is providing data for new areas which have traditionally not been part of official statistics, such as governance, peace and security. Mr. Giovannini asked for ECE to play a leading role in providing data for monitoring the SDGs, integrating data from countries, and in modernizing statistical production processes. Mr. Giovannini urged to rethink the current silo approach to producing and using data in decision-making to be in accordance with the cross-cutting nature of sustainable development.

Dr. Vanessa Lawrence, Co-Chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), discussed what ECE and its member countries can do to advance the work on using new data sources through the integration of geospatial and statistical information. She underlined the value of geo-spatial information in the context of Big Data and the data revolution for sustainable development, given that all events are linked to a location. She gave examples of how geospatial information is providing value by helping public authorities and the private sector to deliver services much more efficiently. The importance of geospatial information has been recognized at the global level by the Economic and Social Council, when it established the UN-GGIM initiative in 2011. Ms. Lawrence stressed the importance of anchoring this work at the Regional Commissions, proposing that ECE should provide the secretariat for UN-GGIM:Europe, as the other Regional Commissions are already doing for equivalent groups in their regions. The geospatial dimension underpins activities in many ECE work programmes, particularly in the context of the SDGs. She concluded that geospatial information will be an important part of the evidence base for monitoring the SDGs. The ECE secretariat can play an important role in supporting this work in the ECE region.

Mr. Padraig Dalton, Chief Statistician, Ireland, and Chair of the ECE High-level Group on Modernization of statistical production, discussed how innovations in official statistics can support the post-2015 development agenda. He considered how ECE can facilitate greater collaboration to more effectively meet the challenges of the "Data Revolution". He emphasized the global role of the ECE High-Level Group for the Modernization of Statistical Production and Services in coordinating modernization activities in national and international statistical organizations by focusing on demand-driven priorities and producing tangible outputs. There is a need for national and international statistical organizations to collaborate within the "Statistical Modernization Community", as the challenges of developing new data sources, processes and products are

too big for individual organizations to face alone. He referred to the critical role of ECE in coordinating these activities and facilitating an open and inclusive environment for collaboration. The challenge is not only in compiling and providing the data but also in having the skill sets to analyse and correctly interpret the data. ECE leadership is essential in driving the modernization agenda and facilitating collaboration between different stakeholders for sharing of knowledge and tools, breaking silos, and advocating for use of various data sources, including administrative sources.

Mr. Peder Jensen, Head of Programme, Partnerships and Networks, European Environment Agency, noted the long-standing partnership and good cooperation of ECE and the European Environment Agency on a number of projects related to environmental information and assessment. Over recent years there has been a constructive engagement process of international organizations such as ECE, UNEP and the European Economic Area (EEA) to bring their environmental assessment processes closer to ensure maximum synergy. The European region can be a showcase for the rest of the world on how to bring together a large number of diverse countries and establish a well-governed environmental assessment process that combines strong country level input with thematic guidance from the international level. He emphasized that the collaborative model of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) could be followed in the monitoring of SDGs. Through SEIS, countries share environmental information and build a common understanding of the challenges to be addressed. Challenges will lie in having meaningful indicators, ensuring good governance of the SDG monitoring process, national buy-in in the reporting, and a good combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches in the SDG monitoring.

Mr. Adonis F. Velegrakis, Professor in Marine Geology, Department of Marine Sciences, School of Environment, University of the Aegean, Greece, discussed what ECE can do to support measuring and monitoring of the transport-related aspects of the SDGs. Transport is an essential component of sustainable development as transport links are an important facilitator of global trade and a prerequisite for socio-economic development. Significant changes in future global population and household size, age structure, and urbanization will have substantial implications for transport patterns, energy use and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Working towards sustainable transport systems requires all aspects of sustainable development to be considered. He noted two ECE initiatives that are of relevance in this context: a study on ‘Transport for Sustainable Development – the Case of Inland Transport’ and the ForFITS (For Future Inland Transport Systems) tool which allows to assess the evolution of future transport-related CO₂ emissions under different assumptions and policy scenarios. Mr. Velegrakis also noted that relatively little attention has been paid until now to the assessment of climate change impacts on transport infrastructure and adaptation measures while climate change-induced weather conditions may have very significant implications for transport. Recent developments in geospatial information and the development of specialized tools to simulate the future effects of particular policies can greatly assist in tracking progress and formulating effective policies.

In the ensuing interactive discussion from the floor, one or more speakers raised the following points:

1. The availability of statistics is crucial for evidence-based policy decisions. The SDG measurement system should be balanced between the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The cross-cutting targets are especially challenging to measure. ECE can play an important leadership role in facilitating the required interdisciplinary and interministerial cooperation.
2. It was stressed that the monitoring framework for SDGs should be built on existing frameworks and already established systems for monitoring and accountability. Several

speakers mentioned the Conference of European Statisticians' *Recommendations for measuring sustainable development* as a valuable framework in this regard, which has taken into account the many initiatives of countries and international organizations on measuring sustainable development.

3. The importance of establishing and implementing a single, over-arching monitoring, accountability and review framework for the SDGs was emphasized. The framework should cover all aspects of the SDGs and all means of implementation, including financing. This framework should operate at national, regional and global levels, overseen by the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. It should be supported by a core set of effective, meaningful, results-oriented indicators, which should be gender- and age-sensitive.

4. ECE could stimulate discussion on the importance of strong institutions and good governance for an efficient process of measuring and monitoring SDGs.

5. More comprehensive indicators in areas such as health, education, employment and financial sustainability were called for, as well as more cross-cutting indicators. However, caution was expressed about having too many indicators, and indicators that are impractical.

6. There was a call for the targets under the SDGs to be achievable, measurable and meaningful.

7. The importance of transport issues being reflected in the SDG framework was noted. Countries were encouraged to provide information for the ForFITS model and to use it for providing information on climate impacts of transport.

8. The importance of the regional dimension in measuring and monitoring sustainable development was stressed in several interventions. It is important to have indicators taking into account the regional circumstances to address regional policy priorities. The regional level could provide a useful forum for peer reviews, exchange of experience, ensuring progress on transboundary issues and encourage countries to set ambitious targets and stimulate implementation.

9. ECE can be a platform for experimenting on how to use the new data sources, how to produce preliminary estimates needed in the context of post-2015 agenda, and how to work with analytical and policy experts to make use of modelling approaches to improve the usefulness and timeliness of data. In that context, the Conference of European Statisticians could play a leadership role.

10. The work of Regional Commissions should be taken into account in developing the global set of indicators.

11. The importance of using geospatial data for providing an evidence base, measuring and monitoring of the SDGs was emphasized.

Panel E: Partnering for sustainable development

The panel session was moderated by Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of ECE.

Mr. James Stewart, Chairman of Global Infrastructure, KPMG, and Chairman of the ECE PPP Advisory Board, highlighted ECE's vision to develop standards in PPP for implementing the expected SDGs. He also highlighted some of the related challenges, including the need for enormous investments in critical infrastructure; a general lack of understanding by the business community of the United Nations development objectives; and a lack of public sector skills in PPP project preparation and management. To address these challenges, he described the potential role of ECE PPP standards, of which there are

currently 27 in the pipeline, as well as the implementation support being given to countries by the ECE PPP Business Advisory Board for the development of projects, their peer review and, most importantly, their concrete implementation. He added that to meet the SDGs, PPP investments will need to shift from the current emphasis on investment in economic infrastructure to social infrastructure in areas such as health and housing.

Mr. Georg Kell, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact, noted that businesses around the world today are increasingly sensitive to the public policy agenda and to the SDGs. Global businesses realize that they have to work with national governments in order to pro-actively address sustainability issues because businesses cannot succeed in societies that fail. The business case for ethical and sustainable business practices is growing. Governments should emphasize this and should challenge businesses to think long-term and to meet ethical standards. Mr. Kell congratulated ECE on its pioneering work in setting standards in many areas relevant for sustainable development. He argued that the standard-setting work of ECE is a particularly effective form of partnership between governments and businesses because standards can be applied economy-wide or globally and thus have a capacity for scaling up implementation built into them from the beginning. He added that good governance, learning and accountability are important, and concluded that there is a need to improve communications on the impact and benefits of partnerships.

Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Secretary General, International Road Transport Union (IRU), stated that there is a need to raise awareness in the transport industry about the fact that there cannot be profitability without sustainability. Both are affected negatively by the costs of inefficient border crossing procedures that result in lost time; increased fuel use; poor conditions for drivers; and more opportunities for corruption. Large investments in infrastructure are sometimes undermined by a lack of investment in trade facilitation. He gave a brief overview of the TIR Convention. The implementation of the Convention is a unique example of PPP: whereas ECE is the custodian and manages the Convention, IRU has the authorization to manage the guarantee chain and issue the TIR carnets. He then referenced various instruments and products that allow transport to drive trade. He also referred to the recently concluded Memorandum of Understanding between the ECE and IRU that formalizes their cooperation in the computerization of the TIR System (eTIR), which is being piloted by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey. Mr. de Pretto also described the IRU New Eurasian Land Transport Initiative (NELTI) launched in 2008 that monitors over 200,000 border crossings and is aimed at developing road freight shipments between Europe and China and realizing the transit potential of countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Mr. Maksim Yermalovich, First Deputy Minister of Finance, Belarus, described how an ECE PPP assessment supported the launching of PPP processes in Belarus in 2012 and has led to a number of key changes in order to make the environment more conducive to private sector participation in infrastructure development. These reforms have included the creation of a new PPP unit and an Interdepartmental Infrastructure Board, a new draft PPP law, and the identification of pilot projects. This work was supported by funding from the European Union and technical assistance from ECE and UNDP that has been provided over the past two years. Mr. Yermalovich remarked that his experience in Belarus had taught him that, to be successful in developing PPPs, countries who are starting should put people first when devising their PPP programmes; ensure that political will exists at the highest level; address the legal framework and, in doing so, seek the advice of all stakeholders including the lenders; build public sector capacity, both human and institutional; and partner with reputable international organizations.

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), pointed out that economic development has to go hand in hand with

sustainability, and that this requires new forms of PPPs. It is not possible to accelerate economic development and to later on repair the damage done to nature. A broad multi-stakeholder process is required in order to reverse the growing ecological footprint from consumption and production activities, and to move towards the “circular economy” that is needed in order to create sustainability and eliminate poverty. Nature itself is a reservoir of solutions for many of our sustainability problems, and this reservoir needs to be protected. IUCN brings together over 100 governments and a large community of non-governmental organizations and scientists, and it is working with the business community to make their value chains more sustainable. This has resulted in some encouraging examples of partnerships, such as the Natural Capital Coalition, which encourages natural capital accounting among companies and investors, and the Aluminum Stewardship Initiative, which is developing a global sustainability standard.

In the ensuing interactive discussion from the floor, one or more speakers raised the following points:

1. The December 2014 European Council conclusions set out a number of guiding principles for a new global partnership: universality, shared responsibility, mutual accountability, consideration of parties’ respective capabilities, and a multi-stakeholder approach. The new global partnership should be based on and promote: human rights, non-discrimination, good governance, rule of law, inclusiveness and environmental sustainability. Gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as being ends in themselves, are a key means of implementation and should be promoted at all levels.
2. Key components for developing a global partnership could be: (i) establishing an enabling and conducive policy environment at all levels; (ii) developing the capacity to deliver; (iii) mobilizing and making effective use of domestic public finance; (iv) mobilizing and making effective use of international public finance; (v) mobilizing the domestic and international private sector; (vi) stimulating trade; (vii) fostering science, technology and innovation; and (viii) harnessing the positive effects of migration. Furthermore, a true global partnership needs a strong monitoring, accountability and review framework which must be an integral part of the post-2015 agenda.
3. Going beyond traditional channels of cooperation, the global partnership needs to promote more effective and inclusive forms of multi-stakeholder partnerships, operating at all levels and involving the private sector and civil society, including social partners, academia, foundations, knowledge institutions and public authorities, including at local level.
4. PPPs are essential for implementing the SDGs. PPP Centres of Excellence, including the one on laws, policies and institutions in France, are affiliated with the ECE International PPP Centre of Excellence and are good examples of initiatives that support PPPs.
5. Achieving the SDGs will require more than investment from the private sector, it will also require new ideas and expertise. ECE should continue to draw on this expertise in developing its standards and other legal instruments, within the existing rules of the United Nations.
6. The Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway Project (TASIM) would be a good way to connect land-locked and “broadband-locked” countries within the ECE region and, therefore, governments and businesses should cooperate on this.
7. Achieving the SDGs will also require a strengthening of the partnership between the United Nations and the international financial organizations, including between ECE and the World Bank on PPPs for infrastructure development. The World Bank is working with ECE on developing PPP standards.

8. In closing the session a new training module on PPPs, prepared by the ECE secretariat for public officials, was presented.

Annex III

Item 4: Discussion and endorsement of the outcome document

The delegation of Azerbaijan proposed to add the following texts to the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region (E/ECE/1475):

“Strengthening good governance, rule of law, fighting organized economic crimes such as corruption, tax evasion, money laundering and others in order to ensure the realization of sustainable development goals.” - to be inserted as point (f) in paragraph 3; and

“Member States also express their concern over the existence of military conflicts in the ECE region that represent a major impediment for full-fledged regional cooperation and achievement of social economic development. Member States call for urgent resolution of these conflicts based on fundamental norms and principles of international law, particularly sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of member States.” - to be inserted as a new paragraph at the end of the whole text.

The representative of the Russian Federation noted the importance of the issues raised by the delegation of Azerbaijan. He emphasized that these issues are not part of the mandate of ECE and therefore should be addressed in other appropriate fora.

The representative of the EU and its member States said that he assumed all agree that combatting illegal practices and organized crime, including tax evasion, corruption and money laundering, and resolving conflicts by peaceful means are essential for sustainable development. He also underlined that the High-level statement has been under negotiation for a long time among Member States and that the EU member States were prepared to endorse the current version of the High-level statement under consideration.

The representative of the United States thanked the secretariat for its facilitation of the extensive formal and informal consultations during the preparation of the High-level statement and stated that the United States was prepared to endorse the current version. He also expressed agreement with the Russian Federation that the issues raised by the delegation of Azerbaijan were important but should be addressed in other more appropriate fora.

The delegation of Azerbaijan suggested that its proposed additions to the High-level statement be included instead in the report of the session under Agenda item 4, which was supported by the other member States.

Member States also noted that the full report of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with United Nations procedures.

Annex IV

High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region (E/ECE/1475)

1. The seventieth anniversary of the United Nations in 2015 is a milestone for international and regional cooperation. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the significant transitions the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region has gone through during that period and the new challenges and opportunities it is facing in an increasingly globalized world. Gathered together as member States for the sixty-sixth session of ECE, we are unified in our commitment to the implementation of an ambitious programme for sustainable development in the region.

2. ECE has 56 member States that geographically cover a large portion of the northern hemisphere and economies that account for about half of the global combined gross domestic product. Our region brings together economically advanced countries with developing countries and has experienced a time of unprecedented economic development and prosperity over the past decades. However, all have also faced economic, social and environmental challenges in recent years and are focused on the necessary transformations to realize and strengthen economic growth, job creation and environmental sustainability.

3. ECE has proved itself to be an important factor in these developments as a results-driven organization that develops best practices and standards and services agreements that serve as catalysts for action in its member States and around the world. ECE is ideally placed to continue to make a strong contribution to sustainable development by:

(a) **Increasing connectivity**, which is essential for sustainable development in today's world and to maximize the benefits of globalization. To accomplish this, ECE will further strengthen and ensure the implementation of the 58 United Nations land-transport agreements to promote affordable, safe, clean, efficient and well integrated inland transport systems and policies; further contribute to efficient border crossing facilitation and international freight transport; and continue developing vehicle regulations and standards to promote road safety, energy efficiency and intelligent transport systems;

(b) **Strengthening the sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources**, by managing and developing its 5 multilateral environmental conventions and 12 protocols, including on air pollution, transboundary water protection and use, industrial accidents, environmental impact assessment and public access to information; and, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ECE contributes to the sustainable management of forests in the region and fosters the contribution of forests to a green economy;

(c) **Improving competitiveness** by continuing its support to public-private partnerships, entrepreneurship and innovation that will help to further mobilize private resources, promote corporate responsibility, and advance a knowledge-based innovation economy; by further developing, maintaining and supporting the implementation of its numerous international standards and recommendations that facilitate global trade, including the codes and lingua franca that are the backbone of electronic business and trade, and more than 100 international agricultural quality standards, which contribute to the increased efficiency of trade and economic integration in the region;

(d) **Supporting sustainable energy and resilient communities**, including through energy standards, such as the ECE international resources classifications, best practices for

coal mine methane management and cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels and natural gas, mapping concrete measures and the promoting of technologies and standards to significantly improve renewable energy and energy efficiency, and the development of smart grids in the region. ECE will also continue to develop effective tools and recommendations to sustainable urban development, smart cities, land management and administration, and energy efficient housing;

(e) **Contributing to an effective framework to measure and monitor sustainable development** by developing high-quality data and modern statistical production building on the more than 20 statistical standards adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians, including indicators for measuring poverty, demographic changes and gender equality issues, and recommendations to measure sustainable development that help national statistical offices to produce and analyse data. The ECE environmental performance reviews are a valuable and well recognized monitoring mechanism. This experience can contribute toward an effective framework for monitoring and accountability.

4. Across these various sectors, ECE embraces a multistakeholder approach and will remain committed to creating and facilitating engagements and partnerships between experts from governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. ECE will also further mainstream gender in all its activities and promote the empowerment of women.

5. As ECE member States, we are committed to sustainable development from the local to the global level. In line with the universal character of the post-2015 development agenda, the sustainable development goals will be global while implementation will be largely the responsibility of individual countries. As such, the regional commissions can play an important bridging role and ECE has the commitment and experience to help implement in the region, within its agreed mandate, this agenda for sustainable development for current and future generations. With this vision in mind, ECE will build on its unique experience and expertise in different aspects of sustainable development, further its efforts to promote linkages between different aspects of the Commission's work, and strengthen its cross-sectoral activities.

Annex V

Item 5: Progress in the implementation of the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE

Statements made by the European Union and the Russian Federation

European Union

Thank you very much Chair. We thank the Executive Secretary for his excellent introduction to this item. The EU and its member States are very pleased with the implementation, so far, of Commission Decision A (65) on the Reform Review, which re-defined ECE's priorities and activities so as to make a more optimal use of scarce resources. In fact, we have achieved quite a lot:

- We have modernized the name of the Committee on Innovation and transferred our activities on intellectual property to WIPO which is much better placed to provide advice on these issues;
- We have re-focused ECE's trade-related work on standard-setting and replaced the former Committee on Trade with a Steering Committee which has a reduced and more focused mandate and a limited annual meeting time;
- We have completely re-oriented ECE's mandate on sustainable energy so that it can start producing concrete results that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector;
- We have achieved more transparency and accountability on the use of resources, by means of a new and more centralized evaluation policy, and by means of a new EXCOM approval template for extrabudgetary projects, thus also taking into account the outcome and recommendations of the audit.
- We have better guarantees now for more transparent and inclusive decision-making processes, because of the "Guidelines on procedures and practices" which are well implemented across the board;

So overall, we would like to thank our partners and the secretariat for these important achievements.

Secondly, Chair, we believe that, with these Reform Review improvements on the one hand, and with our new collective commitment made today to sustainable development, we are really well placed as an organization and ECE has an excellent outlook for the future and can be a model for other regional commissions;

Chair, we do believe there are still some minor outstanding issues. One is the need to implement the Reform Review's call for a more rational and flatter management structure. It means essentially that a Directorate should employ roughly a similar number of members of staff and try to service a roughly similar number of meetings. There should not be great or large discrepancies between different Directorates. Another outstanding issue is to find the right formula for engaging the private sector and civil society in the work of ECE. For the EU and its member States it is important that ECE will pro-actively engage stakeholders in its subsidiary bodies because sensible standard-setting can only be carried out in a broad decision-making process. We need to make sure that not only governments but also private sector and civil society are co-owners of the standards we are producing because that ensures much better implementation. We also believe that the mobilization of private sector

financial resources should take place on the basis of concrete activities that can be shaped in the form of extrabudgetary projects submitted for approval to EXCOM.

Finally Chair, we think that we have already started having a much improved communication policy for which we are very grateful to the Executive Secretary and the secretariat and we hope we can continue building on past improvements in this area. Thank you very much.

Russian Federation

Chair,

We are generally satisfied with the implementation of the outcome of the 2005 ECE reform. It is important that the internal redistribution of posts in the secretariat has become a stabilizing factor in its work and did not lead to the reduction of efficiency of ECE.

Russia supports the decision of the Executive Secretary of the Commission to establish a new Division of Forests, Land Management and Housing, which has already led to an increase in the impact of the ECE work in the said area.

We welcome the decisions on the intergovernmental structure of ECE in the area of trade, which has been a difficult "heritage" of the 2013 review process. Russia considers the consensus on renaming the Committee on Trade into the Steering Committee on Trade Standards and Capacity and on the revision of its terms of reference as the final step in completing the implementation of the Outcomes of the review of 2005 ECE reform. We believe that the agreement reached implies the preservation of a separate sectoral committee responsible for trade within the intergovernmental structure of ECE. Our delegation looks forward to a successful and mutually beneficial first session of the Steering Committee on Trade Standards and Capacity.

Russia will continue to actively cooperate in the framework of ECE in such priority areas as transport, energy, economic cooperation and integration, trade, sustainable management of forests, environment and housing.

We consider it necessary to strengthen the control of the ECE Executive Secretary over observing the relevant rules and procedures of the United Nations at the intergovernmental meetings of the Commission. This will help to maintain the role of ECE as a neutral platform for constructive regional economic cooperation between the member States.

We are confident that the Executive Secretary of ECE, Mr. Christian Friis Bach, who has the necessary professionalism and capacities, will be able to effectively contribute to the fulfilment of this task.

Annex VI

Item 6: Report on activities of the Executive Committee

Statements made by the European Union and the Russian Federation

European Union

Chair, the EU and its member States believe that EXCOM functioned very well in the last two years and, under your chairmanship, we were able to resolve most of the difficult issues of implementation of Commission Decision A (65). We are grateful to you and the vice-chairs, as well as to our partners, the Executive secretary and the secretariat for this excellent performance over the last two years. We can now focus on helping to realize sustainable development in the region.

Russian Federation

The Russian delegation is satisfied with the work that the ECE Executive Committee has undertaken since its establishment.

We see an important role of the Executive Committee in coordinating the sectoral committees of the Commission. At the same time there is a need to clearly distinguish between and adequately distribute the powers and functions of the Executive Committee and subsidiary bodies of the Commission on the basis of their respective terms of reference. In order to maintain the efficiency of work of the intergovernmental structure of the Commission, it is necessary not to mix up the functions of the Executive Committee and sectoral committees in the distribution of functions and overall governance of the “second level” subsidiary bodies. We are confident that the so-called “bottom-up” approach provides for practical results of the work of the Commission.

Russia believes that consensus should remain the main principle of work of the Executive Committee.

The Russian delegation highly appreciates the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations Office at Geneva H.E. Mr. Roderick Van Schreven for his effective contribution to the normalization of the work of the Commission and its Executive Committee.

Annex VII

The Geneva United Nations Charter on Sustainable Housing (E/ECE1478/Rev.1)

Chapter 1. Challenges to sustainable housing

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member States note that:

1. Sustainable housing has a key role in the quality of human life. The positive impact of housing can be increased through the application of principles of: environmental protection; economic effectiveness; social inclusion and participation; and cultural adequacy. The development of sustainable housing in the ECE region faces multiple challenges resulting mainly from globalization, demographic changes, climate change and the economic crisis.
2. Housing provision, management and demolition impact the environment; these processes consume resources (land, water, energy and building materials) and produce, for example, greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing this impact requires the engagement of Governments and civil society as well as action by the ECE and other international organizations. Achieving effective housing management, investing in large-scale retrofitting to improve environmental performance and developing financial mechanisms to improve access to housing should be policy priorities. The life-cycle approach in design should be promoted as one way to reduce the impact of this sector on the environment.
3. A degraded urban environment, with air and noise pollution and a lack of green spaces and mobility options, poses health risks. Housing conditions also have a direct effect on the physical and mental health of the population. Poor housing and indoor environments cause, or contribute to, many preventable diseases and injuries such as respiratory, nervous system and cardiovascular diseases and cancer.
4. The 2008 financial and economic crisis underscored the vital role that stable and transparent housing markets play in the economy. As a result of the crisis, some countries have experienced disturbing imbalances in their housing markets with foreclosures, homelessness, excess housing stock and a lack of affordable housing.
5. Poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable populations¹ may lack affordable and adequate housing, face unhealthy and unsafe housing and physical barriers, and/or related discrimination and exclusion. Those living in substandard and informal settlements often lack water, sanitation and other public services.
6. In some cases urbanization has led to urban sprawl. This has had a negative impact on existing settlements and has reduced the land available for other uses. In other cases, urbanization has been uncontrolled, creating and expanding informal settlements, whose residents may lack security of tenure and social and physical infrastructure.
7. Natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and landslides, as well as human-generated disasters, have resulted in large-scale damage to housing across the ECE region

¹ The definition of vulnerable groups and people varies from country to country and may include: young people; senior citizens; large families with children and single parent families; victims of domestic violence; people with disabilities including mental illness, intellectual and/or physical disabilities; immigrants; refugees; Roma communities; and other minority groups.

and present serious challenges for governments and the region. National policies and planning are often inadequate to prevent and minimize damage from disasters and emergency situations. Affected populations should be provided with adequate temporary housing solutions, if necessary, through international and humanitarian assistance.

8. Climate change has become a tangible reality, with rising global temperatures, flooding, storms and landslides affecting people's lives and assets and causing economic and social losses. Houses and human settlements need to become resilient to extreme weather events, including those caused by climate change.

Chapter 2. Goal, Scope and Principles

9. The Charter is a non-legally binding document. The goal of the Charter is to support member States as they seek to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all, with due attention to reducing the impact of the housing sector on the environment.

10. The scope of the Charter is to improve the sustainability of housing in the ECE region through effective policies and actions at all levels, supported by international cooperation, in order to contribute to sustainable development in the region.

11. The Charter contributes to the implementation of relevant Sustainable Development Goals on Cities and Human Settlements² and the implementation of the UN HABITAT Global Housing Strategy Framework³.

12. When addressing the challenges outlined in Chapter 1, the following four principles and related rationales form the basis of sustainable housing:

- (a) Environmental protection;
- (b) Economic effectiveness;
- (c) Social inclusion and participation;
- (d) Cultural adequacy.

(a) Environmental protection

13. Housing should be planned, constructed and used in a way that minimizes environmental impact and promotes environmental sustainability. This should be addressed through:

- (i) Housing practices that contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of buildings throughout their life-cycle, from design, material supply, manufacturing, and construction, to use, maintenance, refurbishment, and demolition;
- (ii) Improved environmental and energy performance of dwellings, which contribute to combating energy poverty, improving residents' quality of life and reducing health problems;
- (iii) Resilient urban settlements which, when possible, use renewable energy, and proactively take into account climate change;

² Introduction to the proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals of 19 July 2014. At <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518outcomedocument.pdf>

³ See document HSP/GC/24/2/Add.6 and, for related decisions, <http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Decisions-and-resolution-GC-24th-session.pdf>

(iv) Existing houses that are retrofitted, as much as possible, for the efficient use of resources;

(v) Housing stock that is resilient to natural and human-generated hazards, enhanced through adequate planning, design and safe construction;

(vi) Green spaces around and within housing areas, including areas that provide habitat for wildlife, space for leisure, sport and urban agriculture;

(vii) Compact housing settlements with planned growth to prevent urban sprawl;

(viii) Housing settlements with priority given to sustainable and integrated transport systems and the provision of green infrastructure;

(ix) Encouragement of healthy living through: good housing design; maintenance; and retrofitting;

(x) Waste management treated as an integral part of sustainable housing strategies, including in housing construction, housing demolition and household living, with the encouragement of re-use, recycling, and composting.

(b) Economic effectiveness

14. Housing is, and has been, an influential sector in national economies. Housing should be both a sustainable element in a vibrant economy as well as a sector for meeting people's needs. This should be addressed through:

(i) Secure and neutral tenure (i.e. with flexibility between owning and renting);

(ii) Cadastral and land registration information and services that support an environment conducive to investment in housing and the promotion of secure land and housing tenure;

(ii) Transparent, efficient and effective accounting, regulatory procedures and mortgage rules in order to ensure appropriate mortgage availability, protect consumers, enhance their housing security, enlarge housing choices and reduce the risk of homes being lost;

(iv) Increased investment in sustainable housing promoted through private and public investments including public-private partnerships and other financing instruments;

(v) Housing construction and renovation as well as retrofitting of the existing housing stock in order to combat energy poverty by supporting energy efficiency (which will also contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation);

(vi) Housing construction performed based on the use of building codes and standards, which promote harmonization of common practices, procedures, products specifications to allow compatibility across state borders and support building safety;

(vii) The production of housing stock based, as much as possible, on local solutions, labour and local materials for their design, construction, refurbishment and maintenance, thus contributing to local employment;

(viii) The retrofitting of existing housing using appropriate technologies and in such a way as to generate employment;

(ix) Infrastructure and services to people in low income and informal settlements, when possible and appropriate;

(x) National policies and programmes that encourage, when possible and appropriate, dwellers of informal construction to regularize and upgrade their constructions provided that the geographic location and other factors allow minimum safety requirements to be met;

(xi) More integrated urban development and regeneration with workplaces and services brought into closer spatial relation to housing, while taking into account potential dangers and hazards;

(xii) Spatial planning that includes policies to: efficiently distribute economic activities; improve technical and social infrastructure and services; undertake urban regeneration; provide affordable housing; and address urban sprawl.

(c) Social inclusion and participation

15. Housing policy and debate should be advanced with an enhanced emphasis on engaged and negotiated civic involvement, social inclusiveness, public health, transparency, and a concern for ethical processes. This should be addressed through:

(i) Instruments of state support for adequate, healthy, safe and affordable housing, including access to basic utilities and services, which promote social cohesion and contribute to meeting the housing needs of various social groups, including marginalised and vulnerable groups and people⁴;

(ii) Increased availability of housing options, particularly affordable and social housing, through different instruments, including through promoting tenure neutrality;

(iii) Planning, housing design, maintenance and retrofitting that: promotes healthy living; encourages the implementation of universal design principles in order to increase the usability of homes for all people across generational, gender and disability divides; and encourages socially mixed communities;

(iv) Support for adequate housing solutions for people affected by natural and human-made disasters;

(v) Housing and land tenure policies that support social justice;

(vi) National housing policies developed through deliberative and democratic processes based on expert knowledge, extensive data collection, transparent reporting of statistics, and extensive and inclusive public debate about all aspects of housing development;

(vii) Research and exchange of knowledge on all aspects of sustainable housing;

(viii) Effective, clear, and transparent governance at all levels, including institutionalized procedures for appeals to decisions related to housing.

⁴ The definition of vulnerable groups and people varies from country to country and may include: young people; senior citizens; large families with children and single parent families; victims of domestic violence; people with disabilities including mental illness, intellectual and/or physical disabilities; immigrants; refugees; Roma communities; and other minority groups.

(d) Cultural adequacy

16. Housing policy should take into consideration questions of cultural identity, value, and emotional wellbeing. This should be addressed through:

- (i) National housing policies that take into account social and territorial peculiarities and support the protection and enhancement of: landscapes; historical heritage; and cultural heritage;
- (ii) Emphasizing the development of public spaces for cultural and social activities;
- (iii) Housing that takes into consideration the background and culture of inhabitants;
- (iv) Houses and neighbourhoods designed and actively maintained in order to enhance the emotional wellbeing of people, including by involving local communities in this process.

Chapter 3. Key directions of work and measures to promote sustainable housing

17. Member States have the intention to advance in the following four key directions towards sustainable housing:

- (a) Limit the negative impact of housing on the environment and enhance the energy efficiency of the housing sector;
- (b) Promote access to housing, in the context of sustainable economic development;
- (c) Promote decent, adequate, healthy, barrier free and safe housing;
- (d) Promote the continued application of sustainable housing principles.

18. Member States support the following actions:

(a) Limit the negative impact of housing on the environment and enhance the energy efficiency of the housing sector by taking measures to:

- (i) Reduce the carbon footprint of the housing sector by reducing energy use throughout the entire life cycle of buildings, which includes: housing design; material supply and manufacturing; construction; maintenance; refurbishment; and demolition processes;
- (ii) Decrease the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air and water quality, and waste management;
- (iii) Apply building codes and standards for energy efficiency and the environmental safety of new and existing residential buildings;
- (iv) Increase the proportion of low-energy housing units also as a part of an integrated urban renewal approach;
- (v) Increase the use of low carbon and renewable energy technologies in housing;

(vi) Retrofit and renovate existing housing stock in an environmentally friendly, energy-efficient, affordable and cost-efficient way; making use of local solutions and knowledge when possible;

(vii) Put in place strategies to ensure that the design and construction of dwellings apply principles of environmental sustainability, with special regard to climate change mitigation and adaptation;

(viii) Adopt green housing policies and integrate them into sustainable urban and territorial development policies;

(ix) Make waste and water management an integral part of sustainable housing strategies and policies;

(x) Encourage construction of multifamily housing, promote integrated public transportation and facilitate the use of clean vehicles in order to, mainly, counteract urban sprawl and save energy;

(xi) Provide appropriate technical and financial support to housing stakeholders and, in particular, ensure the feasibility and affordability of energy efficiency measures, including for the most vulnerable parts of the population;

(xii) Promote and monitor integrated urban development and regeneration which brings workplaces and services into closer spatial relation to housing, while taking into account potential dangers and hazards; and increasing resilience to climate change;

(xiii) Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for disadvantaged population groups⁵.

(b) Promote access to housing in the context of sustainable economic development by taking measures to:

(i) Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services;⁶

(ii) Promote secure tenure and the availability of housing options, including the neutral treatment of tenure options (such as ownership or renting), in order to encourage the development of adequate supplies of affordable housing;

(iii) Promote transparent and fair rental markets with a balance of rights and duties between landlords and tenants through adequate legislation and conflict resolution mechanisms in order to facilitate residential and labour mobility;

(iv) Contribute to well-functioning, efficient, equitable and transparent housing markets and land markets, which respond to different types of housing demand as well as favouring credit access for socially and economically vulnerable population groups, including through alternative forms of funding, such as housing microfinance;

(v) Develop and review policies and procedures for integrated urban renewal and housing maintenance, including utility systems and the encouragement of green investments in the sector;

⁵ Introduction to the proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals of 19 July 2013, at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518outcomedocument.pdf>

⁶ Ibid

vi) Encourage effective management of the housing stock and develop mechanisms for affordable housing refurbishment;

(vii) Promote investment in sustainable housing through private and public investments, public-private partnership, and other means of financing;

(viii) Develop programmes, where appropriate, to assist those who are in danger of housing-loan default because of social or economic shocks and are threatened with homelessness;

(ix) Develop frameworks to ensure the rights and duties of all property owners as well as tenants;

(x) Where possible and appropriate, assist people living in informal and low-income settlements to have access to adequate infrastructure and services;

(xi) Promote national policies and programmes that encourage, when possible and appropriate, dwellers of informal construction to regularize and upgrade their constructions provided that the geographic location and other factors allow minimum safety requirements to be met;

(xii) Encourage the use of efficient solutions for the design, construction, refurbishment and maintenance of sustainable housing while respecting the cultural and geographic particularities of member States;

(xiii) Establish effective, clear and transparent regulations and procedures, as well as appropriate institutions for issuing building permits, with the objective of helping ensure fairness and non-discrimination and fighting corruption in the housing sector;

(xiv) Promote the use of spatial, cadastral and land registration information and services to create an environment conducive to investment in housing and the security of land and housing tenure;

(xv) Support cities and human settlements adopting and implementing smart city concepts, integrated policies and plans to support: inclusion, including socially mixed communities; resource efficiency; and resilience to climate change and disasters;⁷

(xvi) Promote integrated spatial planning which supports: the efficient spatial distribution of economic activities; the improvement of technical and social infrastructure; urban regeneration and integrated urban renewal; and affordable housing and which also addresses urban sprawl.

(c) Promote decent, adequate, healthy, barrier free and safe housing by taking measures to:

(i) Improve access for all to good quality and healthy housing, reduce homelessness and improve access to barrier-free housing;

(ii) Develop socially mixed communities and avoid social segregation, gentrification and gated communities;

⁷ Introduction to the proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals of 19 July 2014. At <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518outcomedocument.pdf>

(iii) Encourage healthy living through housing design, maintenance and retrofitting as well as through public and green spaces around and within housing areas;

(iv) Improve the resilience of buildings to natural and human-generated hazards through safety planning, design and construction;

(v) Develop sustainable housing strategies that improve access to basic utilities and services, including safe drinking water and sanitation;

(vi) Promote the use of universal design principles in order to increase access to adequate housing and the ability to live independently for all;

(vii) Ensure that housing policy and legislation, and their implementation, are non-discriminatory.

(d) Promote the continued application of sustainable housing principles by taking measures to:

(i) Gather data on housing, including on homelessness, using common international standards to ensure data comparability between member States; make these data and national statistics publicly available in order to support policy-making, research and economic development; and make use of global and regional data repositories to support the policy-making process;

(ii) Encourage investment in research and innovation in all aspects of sustainable housing;

(iii) Support good governance at all levels, cooperation between relevant government agencies within countries, effective public participation in decision-making and the rule of law in housing;

(iv) Develop capacities for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management;

(v) Intensify the regional and international exchange of experience and cooperation in housing, urban planning and land management;

(vi) Develop and implement capacity-building programmes on housing, urban planning and land management issues for all stakeholders.

Annex VIII

Item 10. Adoption of the report of the session

Statements made by the European Union and the Russian Federation

European Union

The EU and its member States thank the secretariat and the rapporteur for their hard work on this excellent report on an excellent Commission session. We would like to thank, in particular, the Secretary to the Executive Committee, Ms. Parisudhi Kalampasut, for her dedication and hard work over these past years and we wish her all the best in the new phase of her life. We also thank our partners for the constructive spirit that has characterized the preparation of this Commission session and its main outcome. The EU and its member States believe that with "Commission Decision A (65)", which defines the priorities and activities of ECE, and with the "High level statement A (66)" which places these ECE priorities and activities squarely in the perspective of sustainable development, the ECE has both the legal basis and the political commitment of its member States to help realize expected sustainable development goals in the region.

Russian Federation

I would like to subscribe to the statement made by the European Union delegation. The Russian Federation sees this session as a success and a very important meeting that paves the way for greater economic cooperation and integration in the pan-European region. I would like to thank my colleagues and delegations in the room, as well as the secretariat, especially the Executive Secretary, and the Chairman for his very effective Chairmanship. Thank you very much.

Annex IX

List of meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and conventions administered by the ECE secretariat between 12 April 2013 and 16 April 2015

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>	
A. The Commission			
Economic Commission for Europe			
Chair:	Netherlands	66th session	E/2014/37
Vice-Chairs:	Switzerland	14–16 April 2015	E/ECE/1472
	Turkmenistan		
Executive Committee			
Chair:	Mr. R. van Schreven (Netherlands)	61st meeting	
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. R. Winzap (Switzerland)	27 May 2013	
	Mr. E. Aydogdyev (Turkmenistan)		
		62nd meeting	
		11 July 2013	
		63rd meeting	
		20 September 2013	
		64th meeting	
		28 October 2013	
		65th meeting	
		4 December 2013	
		66th meeting	
		6 February 2014	
		67th meeting	
		5 March 2014	
		68th meeting	
		30 April 2014	
		69th meeting	
		4 June 2014	
		70th meeting	
		27 June 2014	
		71st meeting	
		24 July 2014	

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
	72nd meeting 3 October 2014	
	73rd meeting 14 November 2014	
	74th meeting 17 December 2014	
	75th meeting 10 February 2015	
	76th meeting 31 March 2015	
 Working Group on Ageing		
Chair:	Ms. E. Winkler (Austria)	
Vice-Chair:	Ms. D. Seib (Germany)	
	6th meeting 25–26 November 2013	ECE/WG.1/2013/2
Chair:	Ms. E. Winkler (Austria)	
Vice-Chair:	Mr. D. Moens (Belgium)	
	7th meeting 20–21 November 2014	ECE/WG.1/2014/2
 Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)		
Chair:	Mr. S. Feder (United States)	
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. T. McGrath (Australia) Mr. V. Dravitsa (Belarus) Mr. B. Prépin (France) Mr. T. A. Khan (India) Mr. P. Alberto Cucino (Italy) Mr. H. Jan van Burg (Netherlands) Mr. M. Wicktor (Sweden) Mr. M. Doran (United Kingdom) Mr. P. Amstutz (United States)	
	19th session 5–7 June 2013	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2013/2
Chair:	Mr. S. Feder (United States)	
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. T. A. Khan (India) Mr. R. Fantetti (Italy) Mr. H. Jan van Burg (Netherlands) Ms. E. Igwe (Nigeria) Mr. A. Grangård (Sweden) Mr. L. Thompson (United States)	
	20th session 10–11 April 2014	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2014/2

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Chair: Mr. S. Feder (United States)	21st session	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2015/2
Vice-Chairs: Mr. T. A. Khan (India)	16–17 February 2015	
Mr. R. Fantetti (Italy)		
Mr. H. Jan van Burg (Netherlands)		
Ms. E. Igwe (Nigeria)		
Mr. A. Grangård (Sweden)		
Mr. L. Thompson (United States)		

B. Meetings held under the auspices of the Commission

Development Policies and Cross-Sectoral Coordination Unit

Regional Ministerial Consultation “Monitoring and Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda - The Regional Dimension”

Chair: Mr. M. Gerber (Switzerland) 15 September 2014

Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting

Chairs: Ms. H. Huseynova (Azerbaijan) 6–7 November 2014 ECE/AC.28/2014/2
Ms. C. Scheele (Netherlands)

Regional Consultation “Financing for Development”

Chair: Mr. M. Gerber (Switzerland) 23 March 2015

Steering Committee for Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)

Chair: Mr. M. Kochubovski (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) 11th session 27–29 November 2013 ECE/AC.21/SC/2013/6
EUDCE1206040/1.9/SC11/6

Chair: Mr. R. Thaler (Austria) 12th session 19–20 November 2014 ECE/AC.21/SC/2014/6

High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment

Chairs: Mr. Maler (France) 4th session EUDCE1408105/1.6/SC12/6
Mr. J.-N. Ormsby (France) 14–16 April 2014 ECE/AC.21/2014/2
EUDCE1408105/1.6/4HLM/2

Co-Chairs: Mr. R. Thaler (Austria)
Mr. M. Rinderknecht (Switzerland)
Mr. M. Kochubovski (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

*Body and officers**Session**Symbol of report***C. Meetings of the sectoral committees and other meetings held under their auspices****Committee on Environmental Policy**

Chair:	Ms. E. Quintas da Silva (Portugal)	19th session	ECE/CEP/S/2013/2
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. M. Amand (Belgium)	22–25 October 2013	

Mr. N. Fairise (France),
Ms. Nino Tkhilava (Georgia)
Mr. B. Yessekin (Kazakhstan)
Ms. M. Nagornii (Republic of Moldova)
Mr. M. Tadic (Serbia)
Ms. M. Rohn-Brossard (Switzerland)

Chair:	Ms. E. Quintas da Silva (Portugal)	20th session	ECE/CEP/2014/2
Vice-Chairs:	Ms. M.-C. Delvaux (Belgium)	28–31 October 2014	

Mr. L. Pokorný (Czech Republic)
Mr. N. Fairise (France)
Ms. N. Tkhilava (Georgia)
Mr. B. Yessekin (Kazakhstan)
Ms. M. Nagornii (Republic of Moldova)
Ms. Gordana Petkovic (Serbia)
Ms. M. Rohn-Brossard (Switzerland)
Ms. C. Broun (United States)

Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators
(organized jointly with the Conference of European Statisticians)

Chair:	Ms. I. Komosko (Belarus)	7th session	ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2013/2
		5–7 November 2013	

		8th session	ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2014/2
		13–15 May 2014	

Chair:	Ms. A. Yepbayeva (Kazakhstan)	9th session	ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2014/6
		3–5 July 2014	

The Group of Friends of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)

Chair:	Mr. Michel Amand (Belgium)	1st meeting	ECE/CEP/2014/7
		12 May 2014	

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Chair:	Ms. V. Grigorova (Bulgaria)	14th session	ECE/CEP/AC.10/2013/4
		7–8 November 2013	

Chair:	Mr. Y. Tsaturov (Russian Federation)	15th session	ECE/CEP/AC.10/2014/2
		6–7 November 2014	

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development		
Chair: Mr. G. Farthing (Canada)	9th session	ECE/CEP/AC.13/2014/2
Vice-Chair: Ms. J. Duishenova (Kyrgyzstan)	3–4 April 2014	
Expert Group on Environmental Performance Review		
Chair: Ms. M. Rohn-Brossard (Switzerland)	23rd session	
Vice-Chair: Mr. H. Liiv (Estonia)	11–12 September 2013	
	24th session	
	1–4 October 2013	
	25th session	
	30 September– 3 October 2014	
Inland Transport Committee		
Chair: Mr. J. Kleniewski (Poland)	76th session	ECE/TRANS/240
Vice-Chairs: Mr. K. Schockaert (Belgium)	25–27 February 2014	
Ms. I. Paillet (France)		
Mr. S. Andreev (Russian Federation)		
Chair: Mr. J. Kleniewski (Poland)	77th session	ECE/TRANS/248
Vice-Chairs: Mr. K. Schockaert (Belgium)	24–26 February 2015	
Ms. I. Paillet (France)		
Mr. S. Andreev (Russian Federation)		
Working Party on Road Traffic Safety		
Chair: Ms. L. Iorio (Italy)	66th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.1/141/Corr.1
Vice-Chair: Mr. D. Mitroshin (Russian Federation)	23–25 September 2013	
	67th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.1/143
	4–6 December 2013	
	68th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.1/145
	24–26 March 2014	
	69th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.1/147
	22–24 September 2014	
Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics		
Chair: Mr. B. Oriwohl (Germany)	26th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.5/54
Vice-Chair: Mr. A. Timochkin (Russian Federation)	10–12 September 2013	

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
	27th session 8–10 September 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.5/56
Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links		
Chair: Mr. A. Timochkin (Russian Federation)	8th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/16
Vice-Chair: Mr. K. Savchenko (Ukraine)	9 September 2013	
	9th session 4–5 February 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/18
Chair: Mr. S. Egorshhev (Russian Federation)	10th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/20
Vice-Chair: Mr. A. Maldrups (Latvia)	27–28 May 2014	
Chair: Mr. A. Timochkin (Russian Federation)	11th session 30–31 October 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/22
	12th session 3–4 February 2015	ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/24
Working Party on Transport Statistics		
Chair: Ms. O. Kastlova (Czech Republic)	64th session 19–21 June 2013	ECE/TRANS/WP.6/165
	65th session 18–21 June 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.6/167
Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs		
Chair: Mr. T. Nobre (Portugal)	69th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.11/228
Vice-Chairs: Mr. E. Devin (France)	8–11 October 2013	
Mr. K. de Putter (Netherlands)	70th session 7–10 October 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.11/231
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods		
Chair: Mr. J. A. Franco (Portugal)	94th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/219
Vice-Chair: Ms. A. Roumier (France)	14–16 May 2013	
	95th session 4–8 November 2013	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/221
	96th session 6–9 May 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/224
	97th session 3–6 November 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/226

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods		
Chair: Mr. C. Pfauvadel (France)	17–27 September 2013	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/132
Vice-Chair: Mr. H. Rein (Germany)	17–21 March 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/134
	15–19 September 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/136
	23–27 March 2015	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/138
Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) (and Safety Committee)		
Chair: Mr. H. Rein (Germany)	23rd session	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/48
Vice-Chair: Mr. B. Birkhuber (Austria)	26–30 August 2013	
	24th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/50
	27–31 January 2014	
	25th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/52
	25–29 August 2014	
	26th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/54
	26–30 January 2015	
Administrative Committee of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)		
Chair: Mr. H. Rein (Germany)	11th session	ECE/ADN/24
Vice-Chair: Mr. B. Birkhuber (Austria)	30 August 2013	
	12th session	ECE/ADN/26
	31 January 2014	
	13th session	ECE/ADN/29
	29 August 2014	
	14th session	ECE/ADN/31
	30 January 2015	
Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics		
Chair: Mr. H. Maillard (Belgium)	56th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.24/133
	21–22 October 2013	
Chair: Mr. I. Isik (Turkey)	57th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.24/135
Vice-Chair: Mr. K. Schockaert (Belgium)	10–11 November 2014	

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)		
Chair: Mr. B. Kisulenko (Russian Federation)	160th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1104
Vice-Chair: Mr. B. Gauvin (France)	25–28 June 2013	
	161st session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1106
	12–15 November 2013	
	162nd session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1108
	11–14 March 2014	
Chair: Mr. B. Gauvin (France)	163rd session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1110
Vice-Chair: Mr. B. Kisulenko (Russian Federation)	24–27 June 2014	
	164th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1112
	11–14 November 2014	
Chair: Mr. B. Kisulenko (Russian Federation)	165th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1114
Vice-Chair: Mr. A. Erario (Italy)	10–13 March 2015	
Working Party on Noise (GRB)		
Chair: Mr. S. Ficheux (France)	58th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/56
Vice-Chair: Mr. A. Bocharov (Russian Federation)	2–4 September 2013	
	59th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/57
	28–30 January 2014	
	60th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/58
	1–3 September 2014	
	61st session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/59
	27–29 January 2015	
Working Party on Lighting and Light-signalling (GRE)		
Chair: Mr. M. Gorzkowski (Canada)	70th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/70
Vice-Chair: Mr. D. Rovers (Netherlands)	21–23 October 2013	
	71st session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/71
	31 March–3 April 2014	
	72nd session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/72
	20–22 October 2014	
	73rd session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/73
	14–17 April 2015	

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Working Party on Pollution and Energy (GRPE)		
Chair: Mr. C. Albus (Germany)	66th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRPE/66
Vice-Chair: Mr. S. Marathe (India)	3–7 June 2013	
	67th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRPE/67
	14 November 2013	
	68th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRPE/68
	7–10 January 2014	
	69th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRPE/69
	5–6 June 2014	
Vice-Chair: Ms. R. Urdhwareshe (India)	70th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRPE/70
	13–16 January 2015	
Working Party on Brakes and Running Gear (GRRF)		
Chair: Mr. B. Frost (United Kingdom)	75th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/75
Vice-Chair: Mr. H. Kubota (Japan)	17–19 September 2013	
	76th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/76
	17–21 February 2014	
	77th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/77
	26 June 2014	
	78th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/78
	16–19 September 2014	
	79th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/79
	16–20 February 2015	
Working Party on General Safety Provisions (GRSG)		
Chair: Mr. A. Erario (Italy)	104th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSG/83
Vice-Chair: Mr. M. Matolcsy (Hungary)	15–19 April 2013	
	105th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSG/84
	8–11 October 2013	
	106th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSG/85
	5–9 May 2014	
	107th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSG/86
	30 September- 3 October 2014	

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Working Party on Passive Safety (GRSP)		
Chairs: Ms. M. Versailles (United States) Mr. J.-W. Lee (Republic of Korea)	53rd session 13–17 May 2013	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSP/53
	54th session 17–20 December 2013	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSP/54
	55th session 19–23 May 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSP/55
	56th session 9–12 December 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSP/56
Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport		
Chair: Mr. O. Fedorov (Ukraine)	134th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/268
Vice-Chair: Ms. E. Takova (Bulgaria)	11–14 June 2013	
	135th session 1–4 October 2013	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/270
	136th session 4–7 February 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/272
	137th session 10–13 June 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/274
	138th session 7–10 October 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/276
Chairs: Ms. H. Metaxa-Mariatou (Greece) Ms. E. Takova (Bulgaria)	139th session 3–6 February 2015	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/278
Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975		
Chair: Mr. S. Bagirov (Azerbaijan)	56th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/115
Vice-Chair: Ms. R. Mocanescu (Romania)	3 October 2013	
Chair: Mr. G. Andrieu (France)	57th session 6 February 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/117
	58th session 12 June 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/119
Chair: Mr. H. Lindstrom	59th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/121
Vice-Chair: Mr. S. Bagirov (Azerbaijan)	5 February 2015	

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Administrative Committee for the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982		
Chair: Mr. S. Bagirov (Azerbaijan)	10th session 9 October 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/20
Informal Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure		
Chair: Mr. P. Arsić (Serbia)	22nd session	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2013 /10
Vice-Chair: Ms. N. Ö. Sunay (Turkey)	30–31 May 2013	
	23rd session 20–21 November 2013	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/ 2014/4
Chair: Ms. N. Ö. Sunay (Turkey)	24th session	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2 /2015/2
Vice-Chair: Mr. P. Arsić (Serbia)	25–26 September 2014	ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2 /2015/3
Working Party on Road Transport		
Chair: Mr. R. Symonenko (Ukraine)	Special session 10–12 July 2013	ECE/TRANS/SC.1/S/392
	108th session 28–30 October 2013	ECE/TRANS/SC.1/400
	Special session 30 June-1 July 2014	ECE/TRANS/SC.1/S/394
	109th session 28–29 October 2014	ECE/TRANS/SC.1/402
Working Party on Rail Transport		
Chair: Mr. K. Kulesza (Poland)	67th session	ECE/TRANS/SC.2/220
Vice-Chair: Mr. H. Groot (Netherlands)	23–25 October 2013	
	68th session 24–26 November 2014	ECE/TRANS/SC.2/222
Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law		
Chair: Mr. A. Druzhinin (Russian Federation)	5th session	ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2013/5
Vice-Chair: Ms. N. Kaygisiz (Turkey)	4–5 July 2013	
	6th session 2–3 December 2013	ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2013/8
	7th session 3–4 April 2014	ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/2

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
	8th session 10–11 July 2014	ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/7
	9th session 30–31 October 2014	ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/10
Chair: Mr. A. Druzhinin (Russian Federation)	10th session	ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2015/2
Vice-Chair: Ms. S. Miettinen-Belleverguem (Finland)	11–13 February 2015	
Working Party on Inland Water Transport		
Chair: Mr. R. Vorderwinkler (Austria)	57th session 16–18 October 2013	ECE/TRANS/SC.3/195
	58th session 12–14 November 2014	ECE/TRANS/SC.3/197
Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation		
Chair: Ms. V. Ivanova (Russian Federation)	43rd session 26–28 June 2013	ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/86
	44th session 12–14 February 2014	ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/88
	45th session 25–27 June 2014	ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/90
Chair: Mr. I. Ignatov (Bulgaria)	46th session	ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/92
Vice-Chair: Ms. D. Filipović (Croatia)	18–20 February 2015	
Conference of European Statisticians		
Chair: Ms. I. Krizman (Slovenia)	61st plenary session	ECE/CES/85
Vice-Chairs: Mr. K. Pesendorfer (Austria)	10–12 June 2013	
	Mr. E. Soj Garza-Aldape (Mexico)	
	Mr. B. Aydemir (Turkey)	
	Mr. O. Osaulenko (Ukraine)	
	Ms. J. Matheson (United Kingdom)	
Chair: Mr. W. Smith (Canada)	62nd plenary session	ECE/CES/87
Vice-Chairs: Mr. B. Pink (Australia)	9–11 April 2014	
	Mr. W. Smith (Canada)	
	Ms. M. Bruun (Finland)	
	Mr. E. Sojo Garza-Aldape (Mexico)	
	Mr. O. Osaulenko (Ukraine)	
	Ms. J. Matheson (United Kingdom)	

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators (organized jointly with the Committee on Environmental Policy)		
Chair: Ms. I. Komosko (Belarus)	7th session 5–7 November 2013	ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2013/2
	8th session 13–15 May 2014	ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2014/2
Chair: Ms. A. Yepbayeva (Kazakhstan)	9th session 3–5 July 2014	ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2014/6
Group of Experts on Business Registers		
Chair: Ms. A. Vaasen-Otten (Netherlands)	13th session 2–4 September 2013	ECE/CES/GE.42/2013/2
Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality		
Chair: Mr. P.-P. DeWolf (Netherlands)	28–30 October 2013	ECE/CES/2014/15/Add.9
Meeting on the Measurement of Quality of Employment		
Chair: Mr. T. Körner (Germany)	11–13 September 2013	ECE/CES/2014/15/Add.3
Joint Eurostat/UNECE Work Session on Demographic Projections		
Chair: Ms. M. Tonnessen (Norway)	29–31 October 2013	ECE/CES/2014/15/Add.11
Joint UNECE/OECD/CIS-STAT Seminar on Poverty Measurement in the UNECE Region		
Chair: Ms. B. Novkovska (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	2–4 December 2013	ECE/CES/2014/15/Add.7
Work Session on Gender Statistics		
Chair: Ms. C. Freguja (Italy)	19–21 March 2014	ECE/CES/GE.30/2014/2
Vice-Chair : Ms. L. Bernhardt (Sweden)		
Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems		
Chair: Mr. R. Gløersen (Norway)	14–16 April 2014	ECE/CES/2015/14/Add.2
Group of Experts on National Accounts		
Chair: Mr. B. Moulton (United States)	6–9 May 2014	ECE/CES/GE.20/2014/2

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Work Session on the Communication of Statistics		
Chair: Mr. M. Levi (United States)	18–20 June 2014	ECE/CES/2015/14/Add.4
Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses		
Chair: Mr. M. Hamel (Canada)	30 September- 3 October 2013	ECE/CES/GE.41/2013/2
Chair: Mr. I. White (United Kingdom)	23–26 September 2014	ECE/CES/GE.41/2014/2
Vice-Chair : Mr. E. Schulte Nordholt (Netherlands)		
Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices		
Chair: Mr. M. Horrigan (United States)	12th session 26–28 May 2014	ECE/CES/GE.22/2014/2
Workshop on Human Resources Management and Training		
Chair: Mr. F. Rotundi (Italy)	15–17 October 2014	ECE/CES/2015/14/Add.7
Work Session on Statistical Data Editing		
Chair: Mr. C. Poirier (Canada)	28–30 April 2014	ECE/CES/2015/14/Add.2
Work Session on Migration Statistics		
Chair: Mr. A. Bustos y de la Tijera (Mexico)	10–12 September 2014	ECE/CES/2015/14/Add.11
Committee on Trade		
Chair: Mr. R. V. Sobolev (Belarus)	6th session	ECE/TRADE/C/2014/2
Vice-Chairs: Mr. G. Stoev (Bulgaria)	10–12 February 2014	
Mr. O. Calmic (Republic of Moldova)		
Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies		
Chair: Ms. M. Stoldt (Germany)	23rd session	
Vice-Chairs: Mr. V. Koreshkou (Belarus)	18–20 November 2013	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2013/2
Mr. J. Mihok (Slovakia)		
Chair: Ms. M. Stoldt (Germany)	24th session	
Vice-Chairs: Mr. V. Koreshkou (Belarus)	24–26 November 2014	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/2
Mr. M. Chloupek (Czech Republic)		

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards		
Chair: Mr. I. Hewett (United Kingdom)	69th session	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2013/2
Vice-Chair: Mr. G. Bianchi (Italy)	4–6 November 2013	
Chair: Mr. I. Hewett (United Kingdom)	70th session	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2014/2
Vice-Chair: Ms. A. Sudol (Poland)	3–5 November 2014	
Meeting of Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables		
Chair: Ms. U. Bickelmann (Germany)	61st session	
Vice-Chair: Ms. K. Mattsson (Sweden)	30 April-3 May 2013	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2013/2
	62nd session	
	28 April-1 May 2014	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2014/2
Meeting of Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce		
Chair: Mr. D. LaFond (United States)	60th session	
Vice-Chair: Mr. J. Bellmunt (Spain)	17–20 June 2013	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2013/2
	61st session	
	16–19 June 2014	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2014/2
Meeting of Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat		
Chair: Mr. I. King (Australia)	22nd session	
Vice-Chair: Mr. C. Morris (United States)	8–10 July 2013	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.11/2013/3/Rev.
	23rd session	
	29–30 September 2014	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.11/2014/2
Meeting of Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes		
Chair: Mr. P. Bianchi (Italy)	41st session	
Vice-Chairs: Mr. J. Kerr (United Kingdom)	11–13 March 2013	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2013/2
Mr. W. Schrage (United States)		
	42nd session	
	13–15 October 2014	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2014/2
Committee on Sustainable Energy		
Chair: Mr. G. Gjerde (Norway)	22nd session	ECE/ENERGY/91
Vice-Chairs: Mr. R. Abord-de-Chatillon (France)	21–22 November 2013	
Mr. J. Keinhorst (Germany)		
Mr. S. Garribba (Italy)		

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
<p>Mr. T. Aliev (Russian Federation) Mr. J.-C. Füeg (Switzerland) Mr. Y. Kakayev (Turkmenistan) Ms. N. Boytsun (Ukraine) Ms. B. McKee (United States)</p>		
<p>Chair: Mr. J. Keinhorst (Germany) Vice-Chairs: Mr. S. Garribba (Italy) Mr. T. Aliev (Russian Federation) Mr. J.-C. Füeg (Switzerland) Mr. Y. Kakaev (Turkmenistan) Ms. N. Boytsun (Ukraine) Mr. J. Daniels (United States)</p>	<p>23rd session 19–21 November 2014</p>	<p>ECE/ENERGY/96</p>
<p>Expert Group on Resource Classification</p>		
<p>Chair: Mr. D. MacDonald (United Kingdom) Vice-Chairs: Ms. L. Carson (Australia) Mr. D. Elliott (Canada) Mr. A. Surinkum (CCOP) Mr. R. Dixon (CRIRSCO) Mr. F. Birol (IEA) Mr. H. Tulsidas (IAEA) Ms. K. Ask (Norway) Mr. K. R. Knudsen (Norway) Mr. Y. Podturkin (Russian Federation) Mr. R. Seager (SPE) Mr. T. Smith (SPEE) Ms. M. Ersoy (Turkey) Mr. M. Lynch-Bell (United Kingdom) Mr. J. Ross (United Kingdom) Mr. B. Van Gosen (United States)</p>	<p>4th session 23–26 April 2013</p>	<p>ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2013/2</p>
<p>Chair: Mr. D. MacDonald (United Kingdom) 1st Vice-Chair: Mr. I. Shpurov (Russian Federation) Vice-Chairs: Mr. D. Elliott (Canada) Mr. A. Surinkum (CCOP) Ms. G. Falcone (Clausthal University of Technology and International Geothermal Association) Mr. R. Dixon (CRIRSCO) Ms. C. Wulz (European Commission D.G. Enterprise and Industry) Mr. H. Tulsidas (IAEA) Mr. N. Verma (India) Mr. F. Birol (International Energy Agency) Mr. T. Arisekola (Nigeria) Ms. K. Ask (Norway) Mr. K. R. Knudsen (Norway) Mr. D. Di Luzio (SPE) Mr. J. Ritter (SPEE)</p>	<p>5th session 29 April-2 May 2014</p>	<p>ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2014/2</p>

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Ms. M. Ersoy (Turkey) Mr. M. Lynch-Bell (United Kingdom) Mr. J. Ross (United Kingdom) Mr. D. Trotman (United Kingdom) Mr. B. Van Gosen (United States)		
Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane		
Chair: Mr. R. Pilcher (United States) Vice-Chairs: Mr. R. Mader (Germany) Mr. J. Skiba (Poland) Mr. S. Shumkov (Russian Federation) Mr. Y. Bobrov (Ukraine) Mr. I. Yashchenko (Ukraine) Mr. D. Creedy (United Kingdom) Mr. C. Davies (United Kingdom) Ms. P. Franklin (United States)	8th session 19–20 November 2013	ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2013/2
Chair: Mr. R. Pilcher (United States) Vice-Chairs: Mr. J. Skiba (Poland) Mr. S. Shumkov (Russian Federation) Mr. Y. Bobrov (Ukraine) Mr. I. Yashchenko (Ukraine) Mr. D. Creedy (United Kingdom) Mr. O. Karacan (United States) Ms. F. Ruiz (United States) Mr. C. Talkington (United States)	9th session 23 October 2014	ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2014/2
Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels		
Chair: Mr. B. Terzic (United States) Vice-Chairs: Mr. V. Budinsky (Czech Republic) Mr. L. Kurczabinski (Poland) Mr. S. Shumkov (Russian Federation) Mr. H. Cetin (Turkey) Mr. B. Gryadushchyy (Ukraine)	9th session 18 November 2013	ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2013/2
Chair: Mr. B. K. Worthington (United States) Vice-Chairs: Mr. V. Budinsky (Czech Republic) Mr. S. Katyshev (Kazakhstan) Mr. L. Kurczabinski (Poland) Mr. S. Shumkov (Russian Federation) Mr. H. Cetin (Turkey) Mr. B. Gryadushchyy (Ukraine)	10th session 21 October 2014	ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2014/2

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Group of Experts on Gas		
Chair: Mr. F. de la Flor Garcia (Spain)	1st session	ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2014/2
Vice-Chairs: Mr. N. Abbasov (Azerbaijan)	14–15 April 2014	
Mr. J. Ingwersen (Denmark)		
Mr. T. Korosi (Hungary)		
Mr. T. Indrebø (International Gas Union)		
Mr. A. Karasevich (Russian Federation)		
Chair: Mr. F. de la Flor Garcia (Spain)	2nd session	ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2015/2
Vice-Chairs: Mr. N. Abbasov (Azerbaijan)	20–21 January 2015	
Mr. J. Ingwersen (European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas)		
Mr. T. Korosi (Hungary)		
Mr. T. Indrebø (International Gas Union)		
Mr. A. Karasevich (Russian Federation)		
Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency		
Chair: Mr. T. Farrell (Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency)	1st session	ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2014/2
Vice-Chairs: Mr. A. Rzayev (Azerbaijan)	17–18 November 2014	
Mr. A. Miniankou (Belarus)		
Ms. M. Raytcheva (Bulgaria)		
Mr. Z. Pavičić (Croatia)		
Mr. C. Noll (Germany)		
Mr. B. Lebot (IPEEC)		
Mr. Y. Yazar (Turkey)		
Mr. M. Patel (University of Geneva)		
Group of Experts on Renewable Energy		
Chair: Mr. U. Benterbusch (Germany)	1st session	ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2014/2
Vice-Chairs: Mr. N. Ramazanov (Azerbaijan)	18–19 November 2014	
Ms. M. Raytcheva (Bulgaria)		
Mr. A. Miniankou (Belarus)		
Mr. Ž. Jurić (Croatia)		
Mr. P. Frankl (IEA)		
Mr. J. Skeer (IRENA)		
Mr. M. Ścigan (Poland)		
Ms. C. Lins (REN21)		
Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry		
Chair: Mr. H. Granholm (Finland)	Special session	
Vice-Chairs: Ms. A. Zornaczuk-Luba (Poland)	17–18 June 2013	ECE/TIM/S/2013/2
Mr. C. Dürr (Switzerland)		
Ms. L. Langner (United States)		

<i>Body and officers</i>		<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
		71st session 2–6 December 2014	ECE/TIM/2013/2
Chair:	Mr. H. Granholm (Finland)	72nd session	
Vice-Chairs:	Ms. A. Zornaczuk-Luba (Poland)	18–21 November 2014	ECE/TIM/2014/2
	Mr. C. Dürr (Switzerland)		
	Mr. G. Robertson (United States)		
Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics			
Chair:	Ms. E. Maki-Simola (Finland)	35th session	
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. J. Hangler (Austria)	23–25 April 2013	ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2013/2
	Mr. A. Mariano (Italy)		
		36th session	
		17–18 June 2014	ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2014/2

Committee on Housing and Land Management

Chair:	Mr. W. Förster (Austria)	74th session	
Vice-Chairs:	Ms. D. Andoni (Albania)	7–9 October 2013	ECE/HBP/173
	Mr. A. Khanlarov (Azerbaijan)		
	Ms. D. Grabmüllerova (Czech Republic)		
	Ms. L. Nielsen (Denmark)		
	Mr. I. Ponomarev (Russia)		
	Ms. E. Bejenaru (Republic of Moldova)		
	Ms. S. Ristic (Serbia)		
	Ms. E. Szolgayova (Slovakia)		
	Mr. L. Roth (Sweden)		
	Mr. E. Hauri (Switzerland)		
Chair:	Ms. E. Szolgayová (Slovakia)	75th session	
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. A. Jafarov (Azerbaijan)	8–9 October 2014	ECE/HBP/179
	Mr. E. Khanalibayli (Azerbaijan)		
	Ms. A. Rakava (Belarus)		
	Mr. M. Vézina (Canada)		
	Ms. D. Grabmüllerova (Czech Republic)		
	Ms. L. Nielsen (Denmark)		
	Mr. D. Gigineishvili (Georgia)		
	Ms. S. Gertel (Israel)		
	Mr. S. Scalera (Italy)		
	Ms. V. Vaiciuniene (Lithuania)		
	Ms. I. Vold Zapffe (Norway)		
	Ms. M. Jose Festas (Portugal)		
	Ms. S. Ristic (Serbia)		
	Mr. A. Komilov (Tajikistan)		
	Mr. O. Nepomnyaschiy (Ukraine)		
	Mr. E. Lester (United Kingdom)		

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Working Party on Land Administration		
Chair: Mr. E. Khanalibayli (Azerbaijan)	9th session 26–27 February 2015	ECE/HBP/WP.7/2015/7
Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration		
Chair: Mr. S. Kedmi (Israel)	8th session	
Vice-Chairs: Mr. A. Popov (Belarus) Mr. S. Zecchini (Italy) Ms. K. M. Easter (United States)	12–14 February 2014	ECE/CECI/2014/2
Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships		
Chairs: Mr. B. Muller (Germany) Mr. A. Smith (United States)	6th session 23–24 June 2014	
Vice-Chairs: Mr. S. Van Garsse (Belgium) Mr. M. Romoff (Canada) Mr. S. Tabuchi (Japan) Ms. S. Mezzour (Morocco) Mr. A. van Mens (Netherlands) Mr. V. Triboi (Republic of Moldova) Mr. H. Salikhov (Russian Federation) Mr. A. Kesli (Turkey)		ECE/CECI/PPP/2014/2
Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies		
Chair: Mr. I. Bortnik (Russian Federation)	6th session	
Vice-Chairs: Ms. S. Ivic-Pavlovski (Croatia) Mr. J. Molero Zayas (Spain) Mr. D. Foray (Switzerland) Ms. L. Musina (Ukraine) Mr. C. Wessner (United States)	10–11 October 2013	ECE/CECI/ICP/2013/2
Chair: Mr. I. Bortnik (Russian Federation)	7th session	
Vice-Chairs: Mr. H. Leo (Austria) Ms. S. Ivic-Pavlovski (Croatia) Mr. J. Molero Zayas (Spain) Mr. D. Foray (Switzerland) Ms. L. Musina (Ukraine) Mr. C. Wessner (United States)	16–17 October 2014	ECE/CECI/ICP/2014/2

D. Conventions administered by the ECE secretariat

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

Chair:	Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom)	32nd session	
Vice-Chairs:	Ms. S. Vidic (Croatia)	9–13 December 2013	ECE/EB.AIR/122
	Mr. T. Spranger (Germany)		
	Mr. S. Vasiliev (Russian Federation)		
	Mr. P. Grennfelt (Sweden)		
	Ms. C. Hamilton (United Kingdom)		
	Mr. W. Harnett (United States)		
	Mr. F. San Martini (United States)		

Chair:	Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom)	33rd session	
Vice-Chairs:	Ms. V. Galatone (Canada)	8–12 December 2014	ECE/EB.AIR/126
	Ms. L. Rouil (France)		
	Mr. Marcus Schroeder (Germany)		
	Mr. S. Vasiliev (Russian Federation)		
	Ms. A. Engleryd (Sweden)		
	Mr. P. Grennfelt (Sweden)		
	Mr. W. Harnett (United States)		

Implementation Committee

Chair:	Ms. C. Hamilton (United Kingdom)	31st session 22–24 May 2013	ECE/EB.AIR/2013/3
		32nd session 9–11 September 2013	ECE/EB.AIR/2013/3
Chair:	Mr. M. Schroeder (Germany)	33rd session 26–28 May 2014	ECE/EB.AIR/2014/2
		34th session 8–10 September 2014	ECE/EB.AIR/2014/2

Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)

Chair:	Ms. S. Vidič (Croatia)	37th session	
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. S. Kleanthous (Cyprus)	9–11 September 2013	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2013/2
	Mr. J. Macoun (Czech Republic)		
	Mr. Y. Viisanen (Finland)	38th session	
	Mr. P. Ruysenaars (Netherlands)	15–17 September 2014	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2014/2
	Mr. X. Querol (Spain)		
	Mr. P. Grennfelt (Sweden)		

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Working Group on Effects		
Chair: Mr. P. Grennfelt (Sweden)	32nd session	
Vice-Chairs: Mr. C. Nagl (Austria)	12–13 September 2013	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2013/2
Ms. S. Vidič (Croatia)		
Mr. J. Bak (Denmark)	33rd session	
Ms. G. Schuetze (Germany)	17–19 September 2014	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2014/2
Ms. S. Augustin (Switzerland)		
Working Group on Strategies and Review		
Chair: Mr. W. Harnett (United)	51st session	
Vice-Chairs: Mr. A. Pilipchuk (Belarus)	30 April-3 May 2013	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/110
Mr. I. Angelov (Bulgaria)		
Ms. J. Kerr (Canada)		
Ms. A. Engleryd (Sweden)		
	52nd session	
	30 June-3 July 2014	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/112
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes		
Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management		
Chairs: Ms. H. Jekel (Germany)	8th meeting	ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2013/2
Ms. L. Kauppi (Finland)	20–26 September 2013	
	9th meeting	ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2014/2
	25–26 June 2014	
Implementation Committee of the Water Convention		
Chair: Mr. A. Tanzi (Italy)	1st session	
Vice-Chair: Mr. S. Ibatullin (Kazakhstan)	5 June 2013	ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2013/2
	2nd session	
	12 December 2013	ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2013/4
	3rd session	
	15 May 2014	ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2014/2
	4th session	
	4 December 2014	ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2014/4
Protocol on Water and Health		
Meeting of Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health		
Chair: Mr. P. Studer (Switzerland)	3rd session	
Vice-Chairs: Mr. K. Tveitan (Norway)	25–27 November 2013	ECE/MP.WH/11
Ms. M. Vargha (Hungary)		EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/MOP-3/06

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Compliance Committee		
Chair: Mr. V. Koester (Denmark)	9th meeting 1–2 July 2013	ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2013/2 EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/06
	10th meeting 25 November 2014	ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2014/2 EUDCE/1408105/1.10/2014/CC/06
	11th meeting 24–25 March 2015	ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2015/2 EUDCE/1408105/1.10/2015/CC/06
Working Group on Water and Health		
Chair: Mr. K. Tvietan (Norway)	6th session	
Vice-Chair: Mr. T. Kistemann (Germany)	3–4 July 2013	ECE/MP.WH.WG.1/2013/2 EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/WGWH/06
Chair: Mr. K. Tvietan (Norway)	7th session	
Vice-Chairs: Ms. A. Drazdova (Belarus) Ms. M. Vargha (Hungary)	26–27 November 2014	ECE/MP.WH.WG.1/2014/2 EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2014/WGWH/06
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment		
Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environment and Assessment		
Chairs: Mr. J. Ritter (Germany) Mr. D. Mormul (Ukraine)	6th and 2nd meetings 2–5 June 2014	ECE/MP.EIA/20 ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4
Vice-Chairs: Mr. A. Andreev (Belarus) Ms. R. Revoldiene (Lithuania) Mr. P. Otawski (Poland) Mr. A. Vesič (Serbia) Mr. V. Buchko (Ukraine) Mr. G. Kremlis (European Commission)		ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.1 ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.2 ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.3
Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment		
Chair: Mr. P. Otawski (Poland)	2nd meeting	ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/2
Vice-Chairs: Ms. R. Revoldiene (Lithuania) Mr. V. Buchko (Ukraine) Mr. G. Kremlis (European Commission)	27–30 May 2013	
	3rd meeting 11–15 November 2013	ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/7

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Implementation Committee		
Chair: Ms. V. Kolar Planinšič (Slovenia)	28th session	ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2013/4
Vice-Chairs: Mr. F. Zaharia (Romania)	10–12 September 2013	
Ms. L. A. Hernando (Spain)	29th session	ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2013/6
	10–12 December 2013	
	30th session	ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2014/2
	25–27 February 2014	
Chair: Mr. F. Zaharia (Romania)	31st session	ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2014/4
Vice-Chairs: Mr. R. Švedas (Lithuania)	2–4 September 2014	
Ms. L. A. Hernando (Spain)	32nd session	ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2014/6
	9–11 December 2014	
	33rd session	ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2015/2
	17–19 March 2015	

Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Chair: Ms. J. Karba (Slovenia)	8th meeting	ECE/CP.TEIA/3
Vice-Chairs: Mr. P. Dadasiewicz (Poland)	3–5 December 2014	
Ms. S. Stirbu (Republic of Moldova)		

Working Group on Implementation

Chair: Mr. S. Ashcroft (United Kingdom)	20th meeting	--
	4–5 June 2013	
	21st and 22nd meeting	--
	26–27 November 2013	
	23rd meeting	--
	14–15 April 2014	
	24th meeting	--
	2–3 July 2014	
	25th meeting	--
	29–30 January 2015	

**Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation
in Decision-making and Access to Justice in
Environmental Matters**

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to
Information, Public Participation in Decision-making
and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Chair:	Mr. J. Peters (Netherlands)	5th session	ECE/MP.PP/2014/2
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. I. Narkevitch (Belarus)	30 June-1 July 2014	ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.1
	Ms. L. Dall'Ora (Italy)		ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.2

Working Group of the Parties to the Convention

Chair:	Mr. J. Peters (Netherlands)	16th meeting	ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/2
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. I. Narkevitch (Belarus)	19–21 June 2013	
	Ms. L. Dall'Ora (Italy)		
		17th meeting	ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/2
		26–28 February 2014	
		18th meeting	--
		29 June 2014	

Task Force on Access to Justice under the Aarhus Convention

Chair:	Mr. J. Darpo (Sweden)	6th meeting	ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/5
		17–18 June 2013	
		7th meeting	ECE/MP.PP/2014/5
		24–25 February 2014	

Task Force on Access to Information under the Aarhus Convention

Chair:	Ms. V. Tapis (Republic of Moldova)	2nd meeting	ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/4
		16–17 December 2013	
		3rd meeting	ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2015/3
		3–5 December 2014	ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2015/3

Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making under the
Aarhus Convention

Chair:	Ms. L. Dall'ora (Italy)	5th meeting	ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2015/4
		23–24 February 2015	

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Global roundtable on access to information, public participation and access to justice regarding living/genetically modified organisms (LMOs/GMOs)		
Chair: Mr. H. Gaugitsch (Austria)	16–17 October 2013	ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/6 ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/6
Compliance Committee under the Aarhus Convention		
Chair: Mr. J. Ebbesson (Sweden)	41st meeting	ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2013/6
Vice-Chair: Mr. A. Kodjabashev (Bulgaria)	25–28 June 2013	
	42nd meeting 24–27 September 2013	ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2013/8
	43rd meeting 17–20 December 2013	ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2013/11
	44th meeting 25–28 March 2014	ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2014/2
	45th meeting 29 June–2 July 2014	ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2014/7
	46th meeting 22–25 September 2014	ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2014/11
	47th meeting 16–19 December 2014	ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2014/13
	48th meeting 23–27 March 2015	ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2015/2
Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention		
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters		
Chair: Mr. M. Amand (Belgium)	2nd session	ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/4
Vice-Chairs: Mr. L. Petter Bingh (Norway) Mr. N. Obe (United Kingdom)	3–4 July 2014	ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/4/Add.1 ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/4/Add.2
Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers		
Chair: Mr. M. Amand (Belgium)	3rd meeting	ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/2
Vice-Chairs: Mr. L. Petter Bingh (Norway) Mr. N. Obe (United Kingdom)	20–21 November 2013	

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
Global round table on the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers		
Co-Chairs: Mr. M. Amand (Belgium) Mr. N. Suzuki (Japan)	19 November 2013	ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/7
Compliance Committee under the PRTRs Protocol		
Chair: Mr. A. McGlone (United Kingdom) -	2nd meeting 1–2 April 2014	ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2014/2
	3rd meeting 3–4 July 2014	ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2014/4
Joint High-level Segment of the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers		
Co-Chairs: Ms. W. Mansveld (Netherlands) Mr. J. Peters (Netherlands)	2 July 2014	ECE/MP.PP/2014/27 ECE/MP.PP/2014/27 Add.1 ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/2 ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/2 Add.1

E. Meetings of other bodies serviced by the ECE secretariat

ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Chair: Mr. J. Hart (United Kingdom)	43rd session	ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/85
Vice-Chair: Mr. C. Pfauvadel (France)	24–28 June 2013	
	44th session 25 November- 4 December 2013	ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/87
	45th session 23 June-2 July 2014	ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/89
	46th session 1–9 December 2014	ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/91

ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Chair: Ms. K. Headrick (Canada)	25th session	ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/49
Vice-Chairs: Mr. T. Gebel (Germany) Ms. E. Snyman (South Africa)	1–3 July 2013	

<i>Body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Symbol of report</i>
	26th session 4–6 December 2013	ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/51
	27th session 2–4 July 2014	ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/53
	28th session 10–12 December 2014	ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/55

**ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Sub-Committee
of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on
the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and
Labelling of Chemicals**

Chair:	Ms. K. Headrick (Canada)	7th session	ST/SG/AC.10/41
Vice-Chair:	Mr. J. Hart (United Kingdom)	12 December 2014	
