

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

112th meeting

Geneva (hybrid), 14 December 2020

Item 10

Informal Document 2020/56

**Draft Proposed Programme Budget for 2022  
Section 20 Economic development in Europe  
Part II. Proposed programme plan for 2022  
and programme performance for 2020**

### **Note by the secretariat**

In General Assembly resolution 72/266 “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations”, Member States approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis, beginning with the programme budget for 2020, and requested the Secretary-General to conduct a review of changes to the budgetary cycle in 2022, following the completion of the first full budgetary cycle. The General Assembly also decided to review at its seventy-seventh session, with a view to taking a final decision, the implementation of the annual budget.

The proposed programme budget of the Organization consists of three parts: (i) Part I: the plan outline, which presents the long-term priorities and the objectives of the Organization; (ii) Part II: the programme plan and performance information for programmes and subprogrammes; and (iii) Part III: the post and non-post resource requirements for the programmes and subprogrammes.

While Part I is prepared by the secretariat at the UN Headquarters, Parts II and III are developed by Secretariat Departments, including ECE, on an annual basis.

The final instructions on the preparation of the programme budget for 2022 are expected from the UN Controller by the end of December 2020. Based on initial guidance provided by the Department of Management, the ECE secretariat has prepared the draft of Part II of the proposed programme budget for 2022, which is presented to the EXCOM for review. The format, structure and the content of Part II follows the annual format introduced from 2020, with amendments reflecting General Assembly resolution 74/251 and additional elements reflecting preliminary information on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and liquidity constraints on programme delivery in 2020.

The budget levels for ECE and other Departments are expected to be set by the Secretary-General by the end of December 2020 and will serve as the basis for the preparation of Part III of the proposed programme budget for 2022.

Modified as appropriate, the ECE proposed programme budget will subsequently be submitted for review to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (Part II) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (Part III) at their respective sessions in mid-2021. Conclusions and recommendations made by both Committees therein will be transmitted to the 5th Committee and the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session in 2021 when considering the Secretary-General’s proposed programme budget for 2022.

In cooperation with member States, the ECE secretariat will continue to address existing and emerging challenges by implementing the most relevant, impact generating and innovative work according to ECE's mandate. Dialogue with member States will be aided through regular updates on the tangible results and impact achieved by ECE in accelerating progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## **Proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020<sup>1</sup>**

### **Overall orientation**

#### **Mandates and background**

- 20.1 The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) is responsible for facilitating economic integration and cooperation among its member States and promoting sustainable development and economic prosperity in the ECE region. The mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions, including on the workplan on reform of ECE and the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE (resolutions 2006/38 and 2013/1, respectively), and Council resolution 36 (IV). The ECE region continues to face economic and environmental challenges in addressing the complexity of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which remain a source of primary concern to member States. The Commission provides a regional intergovernmental platform from which to address these challenges, such as promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable mobility in the region, facilitating trade and economic integration, protecting the environment, ensuring a flexible and efficient energy supply, strengthening the capacity for measuring sustainable development, building urban sustainability and addressing the implications of demographic trends. The work of the Commission is grounded in many of its conventions, norms and best practices that provide sustainable solutions to problems in areas critical to sustainable development, including those spanning national borders. Apart from serving as a platform for Governments and other stakeholders to collaborate in developing legal instruments and formulating policies for sustainable development, ECE provides specialized and demand-driven technical assistance to build the capacity of countries to implement these instruments, policies and best practices, and facilitates their uptake. ECE support aimed at developing the capacity of Governments to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development is also provided through the implementation of capacity-building activities and projects under the regular programme of technical cooperation and the United Nations Development Account.

#### **Strategy and external factors for 2022**

- 20.2 The ECE aims to promote regional cooperation and integration as a means of achieving sustainable development in the ECE region. The ECE intergovernmental bodies, which comprise the Commission and its sectoral committees, provide the foundation for ECE support for national Governments and other stakeholders in advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. By convening the annual Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, ECE also provides a region-wide multi-stakeholder platform for the follow-up and review of the Goals, focusing on peer learning and the exchange of practical solutions for achieving sustainable development. The work of ECE is aligned with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the New Urban Agenda.
- 20.3 The strategy of the programme is based on the implementation of core interlinked functions that are consistent with the legislative mandates of ECE, namely, policy dialogue, normative work and technical cooperation. In line with the principles of the reform of the United Nations development system at the regional level, in implementing its strategy in 2022, ECE will provide a neutral platform for policy dialogue to tackle multi-country, transboundary and regional economic and environmental issues among its 56 member States. The normative work of the programme will focus on the development and implementation of international legal instruments, norms and standards in areas critical to sustainable development, and on the identification and dissemination of best

---

<sup>1</sup> The actual figures for 2020 for deliverables of subprogrammes will be updated based on the final annual data in early January 2021.

practices within and outside the region. Through technical cooperation in its areas of expertise, the programme will provide integrated policy advice, normative support and capacity-building, aiming to expand the use of its normative outputs, facilitate the achievement of the SDGs at the country level and achieve multiplier effects by targeting cross-border issues.

- 20.4 The strategy of the programme is achieved through an integrated approach to sustainable development, which builds on synergies among and the results-oriented work of its eight subprogrammes, namely, environment; transport; statistics; economic cooperation and integration; sustainable energy; trade; forests and the forest industry; and housing, land management and population.
- 20.5 The work of the ECE subprogrammes is aligned with specific Sustainable Development Goals. Identifying and exploiting cross-sectoral synergies of the 2030 Agenda and engaging multiple actors for joined action will be critical to accelerating progress on SDGs and will remain a key strategic focus in the future work of ECE. To that end, the ECE will continue to leverage its integrated approach by providing multisectoral policy advice and capacity-building through cross-sectoral collaboration among its eight subprogrammes in four nexus areas at which multiple Sustainable Development Goals converge, namely: (a) the sustainable use of natural resources; (b) sustainable and smart cities for all ages; (c) sustainable mobility and smart connectivity; and (d) measuring and monitoring progress towards achieving the Goals.
- 20.6 In 2022, the programme will continue providing support to its member States in addressing economic and environmental challenges of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Particular attention will be on promoting solutions that help addressing environmental pressures while ensuring economic prosperity -- an ongoing challenge for the ECE region that is central to advancing sustainable development. The Commission will actively contribute to the decade of action for the SDGs in the ECE region, by engaging its convening power, normative production and technical cooperation, by leveraging its partnerships and best expertise from its networks of experts and by serving as a knowledge hub to promote integrated and cross-sectoral solutions for achieving the interconnected SDGs. Taking into account a significant environmental footprint of the economies in the ECE region, ECE would also focus its attention on progress towards a circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources, which member States had agreed as the theme of the Commission session in April 2021. The ECE will also continue its work to support member States' efforts for longer-term recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, bearing in mind that as the region recovers from this crisis, it has a unique opportunity to build back sustainably.
- 20.7 For 2022, while the prolonged impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ECE's programme of work and associated deliverables remains unclear, the ECE planned deliverables and activities reflect the likely ongoing challenges related to COVID-19 that are being faced by member States. Such planned deliverables and activities include: (i) developing policy analysis and recommendations for member States on issues related to the COVID-19 economic recovery phase; (ii) broadening and adapting the ECE legally binding instruments, standards and sustainable resource management frameworks to the post-COVID-19 realities and member States' needs; (iii) assessing lessons learned, implementing capacity-building activities and promoting exchanges of experiences and good practices, including by re-focusing and/or adapting existing activities, to support member States in their efforts to build a more resilient, sustainable and productive economy in the future; and (iv) developing studies and publications, organizing webinars and panel discussion on how different sectors of economy can contribute to building back better economies and more resilient cities and communities. Specific examples of such planned deliverables and activities are provided under subprogrammes 1 Environment, 2 Transport, 3 Statistics, 4 Economic Cooperation and Integration, 5 Sustainable Energy, 6 Trade, 7 Forest and the Forest Industry, and 8 Housing, Land Management and Population. The support provided to Member States on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to contribute to planned results for 2022, as described under subprogrammes 1, 3, 6, and 8.
- 20.8 With regard to cooperation with other entities at the global, regional, national and local levels, ECE will build on its close cooperation with international and regional organizations and other regional actors, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union. ECE will also strengthen its partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations, think tanks and the academic sector in order to facilitate the Commission's policy dialogue and normative work and to engage them in the implementation by member States of the 2030 Agenda.

- 20.9 With regard to inter-agency coordination and collaboration, ECE will continue to play a key role in coordinating regional United Nations system entities. Following the establishment of the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) for Europe and Central Asia as an outcome of the repositioning of the UN Development System at the regional level, the ECE will co-lead the RCP and work as part of the secretariat servicing the collaborative platform, aiming to promote joint action and closer cooperation among United Nations regional entities and their partners in addressing regional, cross-cutting policy issues, offering integrated policy advice, and providing regional perspectives at the global level. This work will benefit from continued strategic partnerships, joint initiatives, programmes and projects established by ECE with other United Nations entities and international financial institutions, for example, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Trade Centre, the World Trade Organization and the World Bank. ECE will actively engage in issue-based coalitions aimed to facilitate concerted action between different UN agencies and partners on the operational level. Cooperation with other regional commissions will be pursued through joint initiatives, programmes and projects so as to use knowledge management for better results. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, implemented jointly by ECE and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), will serve as the major framework for cooperation with other relevant stakeholders in Central Asia. At the country level, ECE will work closely with the resident coordinators and United Nations country teams in 17 United Nations programme countries in the ECE region to seek opportunities for joint programmes and projects in response to country demands, including on the impact of COVID-19 through social and economic response plans prepared by United Nations country teams. ECE will also continue its active engagement as part of the United Nations country teams through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, to reach the furthest behind. The programme will also promote interregional, including South-South, and triangular cooperation.
- 20.10 With regard to external factors, the overall plan for 2022 is based on the following planning assumptions:
- (a) Member States continue to support the work of ECE and give high priority to regional and subregional cooperation and integration, with a view to achieving sustainable development;
  - (b) All relevant stakeholders at the national level have the political will to cooperate in implementing the ECE legal instruments, norms and standards;
  - (c) Voluntary resources continue to be available.
- 20.11 With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme plan is based on the assumption that the proposed deliverables and activities for 2022 are implementable. However, if the pandemic were to further impact the planned deliverables and activities, they would be adjusted during 2022 within the scope of the overall objectives, strategies and mandates. Any such adjustments would be reported as part of the programme performance information.
- 20.12 ECE integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. Its work in this area is intended to support member States in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5. In 2022, all sectoral committees governing the ECE subprogrammes will include gender mainstreaming in their work agendas, all ECE technical cooperation projects will be assessed against their impact on gender and the Commission will continue its work on gender and economy, including capacity-building activities for women entrepreneurs from Central Asia. Furthermore, all subprogrammes will continue to mainstream

gender in their substantive work and promote the participation of women in all meetings and workshops.

- 20.13 ECE integrates disability inclusion in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. Through the work of its subprogrammes, ECE will continue to mainstream relevant inclusiveness aspects in its programmes and projects and will consider disability-related perspectives in the development of norms and standards.

### **Impact of COVID-19 on programme delivery in 2020**

- 20.14 During 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the planned deliverables and activities of ECE. While a more precise effect of this crisis will emerge by the end of the year, it has already affected the ECE convening capacity and norm-setting work. The impact included: (i) significantly reduced number of ECE intergovernmental meetings with interpretation (from three to one meeting a day) as a result of a combination of COVID-19 response measures and liquidity constraints which prevented the UN Office at Geneva from providing the necessary conference services, including interpretation; (ii) meetings and capacity-building initiatives postponed beyond 2020 or cancelled; and (iii) a change in the mode of delivery of meetings and capacity building workshops from in-person to virtual or hybrid format with no or reduced interpretation. The COVID-19 emergency has forced the ECE to temporarily adopt mitigating measures by adjusting, where possible, its methods of work and approach to developing its normative, policy guidance and other products. In particular, ECE proceeded to organize inter-governmental meetings either as English only informal consultations or hybrid/virtual meetings with reduced servicing capacity, including interpretation facilities. ECE also organized new webinars targeted at the same groups of experts and in the same periods when the meetings were originally planned. In most cases, this helped to ensure business continuity, at least on some issues, but with a lower level of capacity and reduced participation of delegations from member States where English is not an official language, thus impacting both the normative work and the sharing of national experiences and lessons learned. Specific examples of the impact are provided under subprogrammes 1 Environment, 2 Transport, 3 Statistics, 4 Economic Cooperation and Integration, 5 Sustainable Energy, 6 Trade, 7 Forest and the Forest Industry, and 8 Housing, Land Management and Population. The change in approach, postponement and cancellation of planned deliverables and activities also had an impact on the expected results for 2020, as described in the programme performance under subprogrammes 3, 4, 5 and 7.
- 20.15 At the same time, however, some planned deliverables and activities were modified, or new activities identified during 2020, within the overall scope of the objectives of the subprogrammes, in order to support member States on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These included: (i) the development of an ECE Action Framework for Responses to the COVID-19 crisis comprising 13 emergency instruments relevant for the immediate response to the crisis and 55 medium and long-term measures that can be used to reduce risk and “recover better”; (ii) the launching of an interactive online platform on COVID-19 and official statistics on the ECE website, guiding the statistical producers to existing and newly-developed resources from ECE and partners to support the production of official statistics and meet the emerging and rapidly changing demands for statistics, as well as to offer a space for sharing experiences and developments to safeguard statistical production; (iii) the creation of an Observatory on border crossing status due to COVID 19, the establishment of the Multidisciplinary Advisory Group on Transport Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis and an early deployment of paperless and contactless Transports Internationaux Routiers (eTIR) international system; (iv) adapting the overall theme of the first Forum of Majors (6 October 2020) to amplify local solutions and strengthen the resilience of cities to emergencies, including to COVID-19; (v) support to member States in addressing the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 crisis through projects and activities funded from the UNDA, RPTC and COVID-19 Multi Partner Trust Fund; (vi) the launching of a website for sharing information on food loss/waste threats in member States and collecting on the website information that could support Governments overcoming the impact of COVID-19 on international trade; (vii) initiation of studies on and rapid assessments of COVID-19 impact in areas crucial to member States; and (viii) provision of COVID-19 related information and lessons learned through publications, series of webinars, panel discussions and briefings to member States. Specific examples of the modified / new activities are provided under subprogrammes 1 Environment, 2 Transport, 3 Statistics, 4 Economic Cooperation and Integration, 6 Trade, 7 Forest and the Forest Industry, and 8 Housing, Land

Management and Population. The modified / new deliverables and activities contributed to results in 2020, as described in the programme performance under subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8.

### Liquidity constraints

- 20.16 Liquidity constraints also had an impact on the planned deliverables and activities of the programme. The impact included cross-cutting reduction in meeting servicing capabilities and capacity to implement planned deliverables and activities. Specific examples of the impact are provided under subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8.

### Legislative mandates

- 20.17 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the programme.

#### *General Assembly resolutions*

66/288	The future we want	73/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community		
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development	73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
		73/231	Disaster risk reduction
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations	74/122	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)	74/128	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		
71/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization	74/144	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility
71/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization	74/216	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
71/243	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system		
72/237	South-South Cooperation		
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	74/225	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
		74/231	Development cooperation with middle-income countries
		74/235	Women in development
73/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative	74/271	Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat
73/13	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization	74/297	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
73/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM	74/306	Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields	2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission		

*Economic Commission for Europe decisions*

A (64)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE
A (66)	Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region
A (68)	High-level statement
B (68)	Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

## Deliverables

20.18 Table 20.1 lists the crosscutting deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022.

Table 20.1

### Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>
1. Documentation for the Economic Commission for Europe	-	-	10	-
2. Documentation for meetings related to follow-up of global conferences or to cross-sectoral issues	3	2	3	2
3. Documentation for the ECE Executive Committee	20	20	20	20
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>
4. Meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe	-	-	4	-
5. Meetings related to follow-up of global conferences or to cross-sectoral issues	3	1	3	3
6. Meetings of the ECE Executive Committee	5	4	7	5
7. Meetings of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	2	1	2	2
8. Meetings of the Fifth Committee	1	1	1	1
9. Meetings of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	1	1	1	1
10. Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination	1	1	1	1
11. Meetings of the Regional Collaborative Platform	-	-	4	4
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	-	<b>1</b>	-	-
12. Project on Improving knowledge of ECE member States to design and implement integrated policies in support of the 2030 Agenda at regional and national levels (ECE nexuses project)	-	1	-	-
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>28</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>
13. Training courses for government officials and private sector (women entrepreneurs) on women's entrepreneurship	28	9	28	20

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
14. Publication on the regional implementation of, follow-up on and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	1	-	1	1
15. Publication on gender for sustainable development	1	-	1	1
16. Publication on technical cooperation for the 2030 Agenda	1	-	-	-
17. ECE annual report	-	1	1	1
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> advisory services to countries implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework process and “One United Nations” programme.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> annual set of information and promotional materials (CD-ROMs, brochures, banners, panels, posters and postcards); annual set of films on ECE activities.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> annual set of ECE weekly newsletter; annual set of press conferences on ECE activities; annual set of press releases on ECE activities, for regional and global access.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> update and maintenance of the website of the Executive Committee, the gender website and the technical cooperation activities website; update and maintenance of the website providing access to information and documents related to ECE as a whole; annual set of news on ECE activities on 4 social media platforms.				

## Evaluation activities

- 20.19 The following self-evaluations completed in 2020 have guided the programme plan for 2022:
- (a) Self-evaluation on Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (subprogramme 4);
  - (b) Self-evaluation on ECE Collaboration with United Nations and other Partners in Delivering on Energy for Sustainable Development (subprogramme 5);
  - (c) Self-evaluation on Advancing intergovernmental work towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA/RIS) commitments (subprogramme 8).
- 20.20 The findings of the self-evaluations referenced above have been considered for the programme plan for 2022. In line with the principles of the United Nations Evaluation Group, ECE evaluations aim to promote organizational learning, contribute to improvement of programme performance; and ensure accountability of the Secretariat. For subprogramme 4, the evaluation of Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews recommended inter alia to enhance the coherence of the collaboration with United Nations entities and other stakeholders through joint activities and to more systematically collect peer review comments in writing. For subprogramme 5, the evaluation of ECE Collaboration with United Nations and other Partners in Delivering on Energy for Sustainable Development recommended inter alia to continue efforts to mobilize extrabudgetary resources for enduring technical assistance and advisory interventions to support development of policy and legal frameworks, strengthen institutions, and build capacity. For subprogramme 8, the evaluation on Advancing intergovernmental work towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA/RIS) commitments, recommended to ensure greater coherence on ageing issues at national and regional levels by strengthening the linkages between 2030 Agenda and the SDG’s reporting frameworks with MIPAA/RIS commitments. In 2022, ECE will continue to strengthen the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives. Since 2017, the Secretariat report on key results of evaluations to the Executive Committee on an annual basis. The annual report on evaluation contains summaries of key evaluations, plans and recommendations for future actions.

20.21 The following self-evaluations are planned for 2022:

- (a) Self-evaluation on the relevance of the Forest Products Annual Market Review to the needs of member States and challenges in the forest sector (subprogramme 7);
- (b) Self-evaluation on the Country profiles on urban development, housing and land management and smart sustainable city profiles as tools to support the evidence-based approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (subprogramme 8);
- (c) Self-evaluation on the activities serviced by UNECE under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) (2018-2021) (subprogramme 1).

## **Programme of work**

### **Subprogramme 1 Environment**

#### **Objective**

- 20.22 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to improve environmental governance and performance for safeguarding the environment and health.

#### **Strategy**

##### **Planned activities**

- 20.23 The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions of international policy dialogue, normative work, capacity-building and the dissemination of good practices and lessons learned in the areas of air quality, water, industrial safety, public participation, impact assessment, environmental monitoring and assessment, environmental performance, education for sustainable development and mainstreaming of environmental concerns into other dimensions of sustainable development. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the four ECE nexuses, as reflected in paragraph 20.5 above.
- 20.24 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will support the implementation of outcomes of global and regional summits and conferences, support and promote the implementation by countries of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements contributing to achieving mainly SDGs 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 17, through the core interlinked functions reflected in paragraph 20.22. In addition, it will support and promote the implementation by countries of the ECE policy tools that include the ECE Environmental Performance Review Programme, contributing to achieving mainly SDGs 6, 11, 12, 13 and 15; the ECE Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme, contributing to achieving mainly SDG 17; the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, contributing to achieving SDGs 4 and 12; and the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme, contributing to achieving mainly SDGs 3, 11, 13 and 17. Furthermore, the subprogramme will support and promote the sharing of information (e.g., through the Shared Environmental Information System), experiences and good practices in the ECE region. The subprogramme will continue to promote synergies between ECE multilateral environmental agreements, through joint activities.
- 20.25 The subprogramme will also continue to conduct Environmental Performance Reviews, assisting countries in the implementation of the recommendations from those Reviews and monitoring the impact of the recommendations on national policies. Using a country needs-based approach, the subprogramme will support countries, with a focus on those in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, in environmental policymaking, monitoring, assessment and management, including by providing an intergovernmental platform for representative policymaking and decision-making, organizing workshops and training events and providing advisory services. Work will also be undertaken with interested non-ECE countries, including those wishing to join the multilateral environmental agreements that are open to global accession.
- 20.26 The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by developing policy packages and/or recommendations, such as providing concrete recommendations for member States addressing emerging issues related to the work of the Subprogramme, including ensuring effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in the case of a crisis that have been identified as being of concern during the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic recovery phase.

#### **Expected results**

- 20.27 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in: (a) improved environmental governance and performance; (b) strengthened integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies in the ECE member States; (c) strengthened capacities of countries for the effective development and implementation of environmental legislation and policy; (d) improved response to

environmental challenges by ECE member States; (e) enhanced cross-border cooperation between countries and effective international and national cooperation; and (f) strengthened implementation of ECE multilateral environmental commitments and increased geographical coverage.

- 20.28 The planned support on issues related to COVID is expected to result in: (a) improved response to the COVID-19 pandemic challenges by ECE member States; and (b) strengthened integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies during the subsequent post-pandemic economic recovery phase in the ECE member States.

### **Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery in 2020**

- 20.29 Owing to the impact of COVID-19 during 2020, the subprogramme changed the approach to organization of intergovernmental meetings, seminars and workshops with some of them either delayed or cancelled, and some held virtually in the period March–July 2020, and in a virtual or hybrid mode since August 2020. Few intergovernmental meetings and seminars/workshops were postponed to 2021. The subprogramme has also reconsidered its way of conducting capacity building activities: the organization of several capacity building events online allowed reaching out to new audiences. However, it proved difficult to organise virtual capacity building events for some regions, due to the difficulty to ensure interpretation and differences in time zones, thus some capacity building activities had to be postponed.
- 20.30 At the same time, however the subprogramme modified some activities to support member States on issues related to COVID-19, within the overall scope of its objectives. In particular, the subprogramme:
- helped countries to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic with policy packages that increase resilience and support a green economic recovery;
  - initiated the preparation of new principles on green and healthy sustainable transport, taking stock of experiences from the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - reconfigured a UNDA project under the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment programme to strengthen the capacity of target countries in producing environment- and health-related indicators and their use in decision-making on environment and health topics;
  - through the advisory support by the Aarhus Convention's Compliance Committee provided concrete recommendations for Kazakhstan and other interested Parties and member States on how to ensure effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in the case of a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic recovery phase. The modified and new deliverables contributed to results in 2020, as specified under result 1 below.

### **Liquidity constraints**

- 20.31 During 2020, liquidity constraints had an impact on the planned deliverables and activities of the subprogramme. The impact included: posts temporarily vacated could not be filled, thus slowing and/or reducing delivery of activities in the affected programmes and necessitating an increased use of consultants from extrabudgetary resources.

### **Result 1: Strengthening the public's rights to information, participation and justice in environmental matters during COVID-19 pandemic and the economic recovery (new 2020 result)**

#### **Programme performance in 2020**

- 20.32 The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) provide for several obligations specifically relevant

in the context of COVID-19. The two treaties are the only global legally binding instruments that give the public broad and concrete rights to participate in decision-making and to have access to information and justice regarding the environment. In doing so, the Convention links environmental and human rights and aims to protect the rights of both present and future generations to live in a healthy environment. The provision of access to information in accordance with the Convention covers issues related to COVID-19 matters, such as e.g. origin of the virus; related impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, on other objects of the environment and on human health. In its turn, public participation in decision-making concerns legislation, plans, policies and projects related to these matters. Responding to present threat to human health and/or the environment posed by COVID-19, the Convention requires that all information that could enable the public to take measures to prevent or mitigate harm arising from the threat and that is held by a public authority be disseminated immediately and without delay to those who may be affected.

20.33 ECE services all activities under the Convention and its Protocol. The work done under the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs not only maintained, but also strengthened these rights in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic as they are the cornerstones of environmental democracy and embody the right to a healthy environment. Activities carried out in 2020 supported Parties and other interested member States in their efforts to enhance governance and accountability; and to promote more effective and inclusive decision-making in environmental matters. In addition, the work helped to build public consensus around environmental issues and public ownership of solutions and decisions, which also leads to increased social cohesion and strengthened communities. The subprogramme serviced all activities under the Convention and its Protocol, including expert and intergovernmental meetings and capacity-building activities, and prepared the related background papers and documents for decision-making.

*Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

20.34 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the recommendations that were provided to Kazakhstan in July 2020<sup>2</sup> on whether the holding of public hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic through videoconferencing would meet the requirements of the Convention (see table 20.2). The recommendations, which are relevant also to other Convention’s Parties and could be used by any interested UN Member State, included that the Convention does not preclude the holding of public hearings on decision-making under the Convention during the COVID-19 pandemic through video-conferencing or other virtual means, provided that in practice all the requirements of the Convention are fully met.

20.35 Further, the Compliance Committee adopted a statement<sup>3</sup> in response to concerns voiced by authorities and the public across the region as due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a state of emergency and different quarantine measures have been declared in many countries. The statement makes clear that even in a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic recovery phase, the binding rights in the Convention cannot be reduced or curtailed. Rather, if the established practices for ensuring access to information, public participation in decision-making or access to justice in environmental matters cannot be used, any alternative means must fulfil the requirements of the Convention. Through the advisory support by the Convention’s Compliance Committee, Kazakhstan and other interested Parties and member States received concrete recommendations on how to ensure effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in the case of a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic recovery phase.

Table 20.2

**Performance measure**

2018	2019	2020
N/A	N/A	The right of the public to access to information, participate in

<sup>2</sup> Recommendations with regard to request for advice by Kazakhstan (<https://www.unece.org/env/pp/cc/assistance.html>).

<sup>3</sup> Statement on the application of the Aarhus Convention during the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic recovery Phase (<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53237>).

2018	2019	2020
		decision-making and access to justice maintained in line with the Convention during the COVID-19 pandemic

**Result 2: Extension of the life of nuclear power plants (reflected in programme plan for 2020 - A/74/6 (Sect.20))**

**Programme performance in 2020**

- 20.36 The subprogramme through the secretariat to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) supported the substantive work, including through assisting in the development of the respective documents and the organization of meetings of the ad hoc working group established at the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (Minsk, Belarus, 13-16 June 2017). Twenty-nine Parties to the Convention have nominated their representatives to participate in the work of this body, to achieve progress in the preparation of the “Draft guidance on the applicability of the Espoo Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants”. Results of the work have been presented for consideration of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment (24-26 August 2020, Geneva; meeting held in a hybrid format). However, work of the ad hoc group was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, due to which, three meetings of the group were cancelled, and work was continued via written procedure and on-line meetings. The efforts to reach the agreement on the text continue, aiming to its submission to the Meeting of the Parties for adoption at its eighth session (Vilnius, 8–11 December 2020).
- 20.37 The above-mentioned work contributed to the target of the adoption of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants [*pending the decision of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention in December 2020*, which met the planned target as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020].

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

- 20.38 Pending the decision of the Parties to the Convention on the adoption of the “Draft guidance on the applicability of the Espoo Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants”, the subprogramme will continue the work related to disseminating of the guidance and supporting its application by countries, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective and in response to recent developments, the subprogramme’s work will evolve to include support for the countries’ continuous application of the principles of the guidance in the activities under the Convention. The expected progress is presented in the updated performance measure below (see table 20.3).

Table 20.3

**Performance measure**

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Absence of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants	Development of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants	Adoption of guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants (pending the decision of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention in December 2020)	Wide dissemination and application by countries of the guidance on extending the life of nuclear power plants	Continuous application of the principles of the guidance in the activities under the Convention

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

### Result 3: Enhanced environmental performance in the Economic Commission for Europe region (reflected in programme plan for 2021 - A/75/6 (Sect.20))

#### Programme performance in 2020

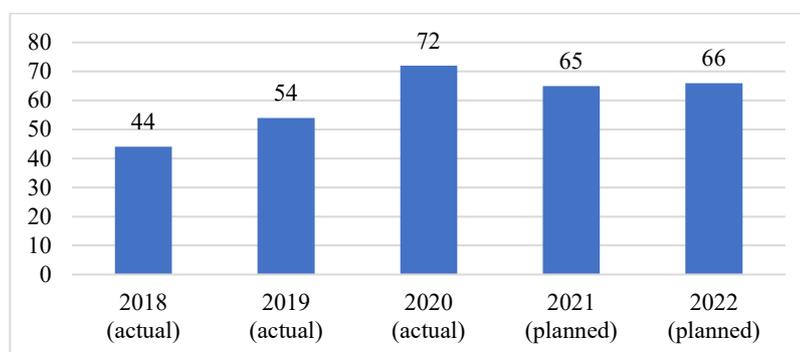
- 20.39 The subprogramme finalized and published the Third Environmental Performance Review of Uzbekistan that includes an assessment of relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, the national launch of the Review was replaced by a broad virtual promotion through mass media and social platforms. The subprogramme is working on a third environmental performance review of Romania, that was expert reviewed at the end of October, peer reviewed and adopted in mid-November and is planned to be published in 2021. Furthermore, the subprogramme has developed new approaches to conducting its country review missions in the times of pandemic, such as hybrid missions or virtual missions, depending on the reviewed country willingness and operational feasibility to organize such missions. The missions include field visits (e.g., landfills, wastewater treatment plants, protected areas) as well as plenary and individual meetings with the representatives of the government, local authorities, academia, business, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
- 20.40 The above-mentioned work contributed to the assessment of 72 Sustainable Development Goal Targets, several of which were assessed multiple times from different perspective totalling to 92 assessments of 72 Targets, which exceeded the planned target of 64 Targets, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2021. The exceedance is due to the high number of chapters (17) in the Third Environmental Performance Review of Uzbekistan, in response to the demand from the reviewed country to include integration of environment into selected sectors (energy, transport, agriculture, industry, human settlements, health), which made more Targets relevant for the review.

#### Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 20.41 The subprogramme will continue the work related to enhancing environmental performance in the ECE region, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will undertake environmental performance reviews of requesting countries, including assessing relevant Sustainable Development Goal Targets. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.1).

Figure 20.1

**Performance measure: number of targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development covered by Environmental Performance Reviews**



### Result 4: Improved information for strengthening transboundary water cooperation (new 2022 result)

#### Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 20.42 More than 60 per cent of freshwater worldwide flows in basins shared by two or more countries. Transboundary water cooperation is therefore crucial for peace, sustainable development and human well-being. However, only 17 countries worldwide had all their transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements for water cooperation in 2018. Since 2017, the subprogramme's Water team has been working to support over 150 United Nations Member States who share transboundary waters to report on the Sustainable Development Goals indicator 6.5.2 "Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation". Providing information as part of the reporting template contributes to the strengthening of transboundary water cooperation and the achievement of target 6.5 of the 2030 Agenda.
- 20.43 Reporting on indicator 6.5.2 is organized in three-year cycles, with the first cycle held in 2017 and the second cycle taking place in 2020. ECE and UNESCO are co-custodian agencies for indicator 6.5.2. ECE communicates data on the indicator for transboundary river and lake basins to the United Nations Statistical Commission on an annual basis. The data is then included in the Secretary General's progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals. A baseline report for indicator 6.5.2 was published in 2018, with the next progress report envisaged in 2021. For Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, reporting on indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention is combined.
- 20.44 In the period 2017–2020, the subprogramme coordinated the preparation and revision of the reporting template and the development of guidance documents to facilitate the reporting on indicator 6.5.2. It has organized numerous expert meetings and global and regional capacity-building activities to raise awareness about the reporting process and foster high quality reporting and coordination of reports at the basin level. Due to additional challenges faced by the countries in time of the COVID-19 pandemic with timely preparation and submission of reports and organization of consultations within the countries and at basin level, the subprogramme organized a series of online capacity building activities.

*Lessons learned and planned change*

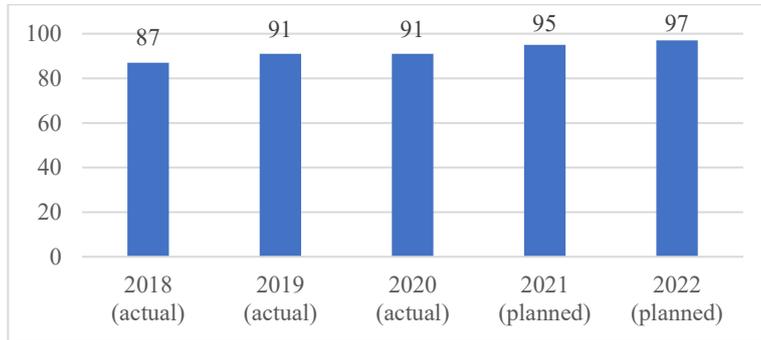
- 20.45 The lesson for the subprogramme was that the subprogramme's support had not been sufficient for ensuring high-quality reporting by all countries sharing transboundary surface waters. Thus, an effective and structured approach should be established, and sufficient resources allocated to support efforts by countries sharing transboundary waters in reporting on indicator 6.5.2 and using the reports for identifying and addressing gaps in transboundary water cooperation. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will: facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries; design and implement capacity development activities to support countries in improving the quality of reporting and informing policy processes on transboundary water cooperation, including in light of the challenges related to COVID-19; develop an online platform/data system to facilitate the reporting process and analysis; improve communication of results; and develop complementary activities supporting countries in transboundary water cooperation.

*Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

- 20.46 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by 97 countries that provide accurate data on indicator 6.5.2 for transboundary river and lake basins, as validated by the subprogramme and communicated to the UN Statistical Commission in 2022 (see figure 20.2).

Figure 20.2

**Performance measure: cumulative number of countries for which data on transboundary river and lake component of indicator 6.5.2 are submitted to the UN Statistical Commission**



### **Legislative mandates**

20.47 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

*General Assembly resolutions*

		70/169	The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation
2994 (XXVII)	United Nations Conference on the Human Environment	70/209	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014)
47/193	Observance of World Day for Water	71/222	International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028
62/68	Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm	71/313	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
64/200	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction	72/222	Education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
67/291	Sanitation for All		
69/172	Human rights in the administration of justice	73/226	Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028
69/215	International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources	73/238	The role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia
69/235	Industrial development cooperation		

*Economic Commission for Europe decisions*

CEP/AC.13/2005/2	Report of the High-level meeting of Environment and Education Ministries (2005) adopting the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development	ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.1	Declaration: “Greener, cleaner, smarter!” by ministers of the region of ECE, report of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, 2016
ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/4/Add.1	Statement on Education for Sustainable Development by the Ministers of Education and of the Environment of the UNECE region adopted at the joint session on education for development of the Sixth Ministerial Conference entitled “Environment for Europe”, 2007	ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.2	Batumi Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development adopted by the High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries of the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, report of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, 2016
ECE/AC.21/2014/2	Report of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, 2014		
ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1	Declaration: “Save water, grow green!” by ministers of the region of ECE, report of the Seventh Ministerial Conference, entitled “Environment for Europe”, 2011		

*Relevant decisions of the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements of the Economic Commission for Europe*

ECE/EB.AIR/144 and Add.1 and Add.2	Report of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on its thirty-ninth session		Matters (Aarhus Convention) on its sixth session
ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/6 and Add.1	Report of the 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 on its third session	ECE/MP.PP/2017/16-ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/2 and Add.1	Report of the Joint High-level Segment of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) on its sixth session, and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers on its third session, and the Budva Declaration on Environmental Democracy for Our Sustainable Future, adopted at the two Meetings of the Parties
ECE/MP.PP/2017/2 and Add.1	Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental		

<p>ECE/MP.EIA/ 23-ECE/MP.EIA/ SEA/7 and Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3</p>	<p>Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context on its seventh session, and of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment on its third session</p>
<p>ECE/MP.EIA/ 27-ECE/MP.EIA/ SEA/11 and Add.1</p>	<p>Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment on their intermediary sessions</p>
<p>ECE/CP.TEIA/42 and Add.1</p>	<p>Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on its eleventh meeting</p>
<p>ECE/MP.WAT/54 and Add.1 and Add.2</p>	<p>Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes on its eighth session, including the Strategy for the implementation of the Water Convention at the global level</p>
<p>ECE/MP.WH/19 and Add. 1 and 2</p>	<p>Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes on its fifth session</p>

## Deliverables

20.48 Table 20.4 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.4

### Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>211</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>178</b>
1. Documentation for the Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies	82	16	30	37
2. Documentation for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and subsidiary bodies and Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and subsidiary bodies	8	8	30	30
3. Documentation for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and subsidiary bodies	18	17	–	15
4. Documentation for the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and subsidiary bodies	34	31	34	34
5. Documentation for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies and Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies	24	24	10	10
6. Documentation for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and subsidiary bodies and Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and subsidiary bodies	38	28	71	50
7. Documentation for the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment and subsidiary bodies	7	7	4	5
8. Documentation for the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development	-	-	11	11
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>251</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>196</b>
9. Meetings of the Committee on Environmental Policy and subsidiary bodies	40	17	30	27
10. Meetings of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and subsidiary bodies and Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and subsidiary bodies	47	40	48	46
11. Meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and subsidiary bodies	30	26	17	22
12. Meetings of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and subsidiary bodies	30	22	31	31
13. Meetings of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies and Meetings of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and subsidiary bodies	33	30	34	34

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
14. Meetings of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and subsidiary bodies and Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register and subsidiary bodies	67	50	74	60
15. Meetings of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment and subsidiary bodies	4	4	3	2
16. Meetings of the Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development	-	-	6	6
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>48</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>20</b>
17. Workshops on environmental issues, including on air quality, water, industrial safety, public participation, environmental assessment, monitoring and performance and education for sustainable development, for government officials and other stakeholders in the ECE region to improve environmental governance and performance	48	20	71	20
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
18. Guidance, policy briefs, good practice publications on environmental issues and multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme	6	4	6	6
19. Progress reports and performance reviews on environmental issues	2	1	2	2
20. Multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme, after amendments enter into force	1	0	1	1
21. Publications on the multilateral environmental agreements administered by the subprogramme	2	0	2	2
22. Measuring and Monitoring Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE nexuses publication)	-	1	-	-
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> advisory services for government officials and other stakeholders of States members of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on water, energy and other environmental issues.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> environmental performance review (synopsis and highlights) to facilitate broad dissemination and user friendly access to key messages and recommendations by representatives of at least six categories of stakeholders, such as the Government, local authorities, academia, business, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as mass-media in the reviewed countries; Electronic newsletter of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment submitted to all member States in the region, including representatives of government, academia, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases on environmental issues.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> update and maintenance of the website of the subprogramme.				

## **Subprogramme 2 Transport**

### **Objective**

- 20.49 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance a regionally and globally sustainable inland transport (road, rail, inland waterway and intermodality) system by making it safer, cleaner, more efficient and more affordable, both for freight transport and people's mobility.

### **Strategy**

#### **Planned activities**

- 20.50 The ECE transport subprogramme is carried out by the programme of work adopted by the Inland Transport Committee through its role, enshrined in the Committee's strategy until 2030 (see ECE/TRANS/288/Add.2), as the United Nations platform for inland transport to help to efficiently address regional and global needs in inland transport. Through, among others, its 20 working parties and 14 administrative committees, the Economic and Social Council Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and more than 50 formal and informal networks bringing together some 6,000 registered experts, the subprogramme promotes regionally and globally sustainable transport systems.
- 20.51 The core pillar of its work is to administer the international regulatory framework for inland transport, which currently includes 59 United Nations legal instruments on safety, pollution, efficiency and effectiveness (normative function), by developing new and updating existing legal instruments, as necessary.
- 20.52 At the request of member States and contracting parties, the subprogramme services the institutional platforms for national Governments and other key transport stakeholders to maintain this regulatory framework, complemented by policy dialogue, analytical work, technical assistance and capacity-building activities. The subprogramme also contributes to the work of the Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety and the operation of the United Nations Road Safety Fund, aiming to facilitate improvements in road safety globally. Under emergency situations, including pandemics, the subprogramme also supports Member States' efforts to respond to and recover from such extraordinary circumstances, while minimizing disruptions to the functioning of the national, regional and international transport systems and the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. This work is expected to contribute to all four ECE nexuses.
- 20.53 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- Intensify its standard-setting and regulatory activities as the United Nations platform for inland transport conventions, by supporting the development of new instruments, updating of existing ones and ensuring that they remain up-to-date and open to all United Nations Member States. These activities are expected to support Governments in making progress towards the achievement of SDGs 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13;
  - Work through the Inland Transport Committee plenary sessions and subsidiary bodies towards ensuring that: its regulatory functions are keeping pace with cutting-edge technologies driving transport innovation, especially in the areas of intelligent transport systems, autonomous vehicles and digitalization; the different amendment processes for the different conventions do not cause fragmentation; and the dangers of stifling progress due to premature regulation are avoided;

- Provide a platform for policy dialogue at the annual session of the Inland Transport Committee to review emerging challenges and emergency situations in inland transport and proposals for improving infrastructure and operation;
- Provide an institutional platform through the Inland Transport Committee and subsidiary bodies supporting regional and interregional connectivity, developing new or building on existing initiatives, agreements or corridors.

20.54 The subprogramme plans to support member States on COVID-19 related issues by: supporting the adoption by the Inland Transport Committee plenary sessions of high-level political statements and/or resolutions on concerted actions by member States and Contracting Parties during pandemics and other emergencies that will strengthen or enable the implementation of emergency-relevant decisions and mandates by the Inland Transport Committee, its subsidiary bodies and their members; promoting knowledge-sharing and cooperation among governments and key stakeholders; raising awareness of emerging issues and best responses; facilitating technically the adaptation of legally binding instruments and framework to the new realities; and preparing new guidance materials.

### **Expected results**

20.55 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in (a) improvements in sustainable mobility, and monitoring and measuring the SDGs (b) improvements in inland transport, leading to safer, cleaner, more efficient and more affordable systems for contracting parties to the United Nations inland transport conventions (c) more efficient and resilient cross-border flows of goods and people.

20.56 The planned support on COVID-19 related issues is expected to result in enhanced intergovernmental cooperation in emergency situations, minimized disruptions in the continued implementation and updating of United Nations inland transport conventions, and continued progress in the achievement of the SDGs, as specified in more detail under Result 4 below.

### **Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery in 2020**

20.57 Due to the impact of COVID-19 during 2020, the subprogramme was forced to cancel, shorten, or postpone beyond 2020 key meetings and negotiations. Although goals that partially capture the worldwide work of the subprogramme, as set in Results 2 and 3, were met/exceeded, COVID-19 and liquidity constraints severely impacted the delivery of the planned work of the subprogramme in other areas by, among other things, compromising its key assets, i.e. its convening power and normative work. Mitigating measures summarized under the Overall Orientation, helped to ensure business continuity, at least on some issues, although at a rate not sustainable or in par with worldwide demands and needs. The planned work that was impacted include the following: sessions of subsidiary Working Parties (GRE, GRPE, GRSG, GRSP and GRVA) on vehicles regulations were held without interpretation and virtually with reduced agendas and decisions adopted under silence procedures. Contracting parties requested 37 half-day morning sessions to be cancelled in order to accommodate participation from different time zones. Overall, as a result of a combination of COVID-19 response measures and liquidity constrains which prevented the UN Office at Geneva from providing the necessary conference services, including interpretation, only about 62 per cent of planned meetings were implemented in 2020 and only 34 per cent of total planned meetings with interpretation services were organized.

20.57 At the same time, however the subprogramme identified new activities to support Member States on COVID-19 related issues, within the overall scope of its objectives, namely establishing new platforms to share knowledge and promote cooperation among governments and key stakeholders under emergency situations, including pandemics; raising awareness of emerging issues and best responses; facilitating technically the adaptation of legally binding instruments and framework to the new realities; and preparing new guidance materials. The new deliverables contributed to results in 2020, as specified under Result 1 below.

## Liquidity constraints

- 20.58 During 2020, liquidity constraints impacted the planned deliverables and activities of the subprogramme. This impact included the allocation in the period September-December 2020 of 72 half-day meetings with interpretation against a total of 216 meetings, as per the subprogramme's programme of work. Furthermore, one Economic Affairs Officer vacancy within the Sustainable Transport Division limited the delivery of the normative functions of the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations.

## **Result 1: Leveraging acquired knowledge on COVID-19 to strengthen the servicing and implementation of legal instruments in inland transport (new 2020 result)**

### **Programme performance in 2020**

- 20.59 The uninterrupted implementation of the planned work of the transport subprogramme, which is in line with the programme of work adopted by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), is essential for the implementation, development and constant updating of the international regulatory framework for inland transport, which currently includes 59 United Nations legal instruments under the purview of ITC. This work promotes sustainable transport systems worldwide that are safe, green, efficient and affordable, for both freight transport and personal mobility.
- 20.60 COVID-19 and liquidity constraints created enhanced needs for support to member States and contracting parties in the implementation of their obligations under legal instruments and in the provision of proper guidance on downstream legislation. A characteristic example is the cancellation of a combined 20 official 3-hour sessions in June-July for two worldwide bodies serviced by ECE, namely the two subcommittees under the ECOSOC Committee on TDG and GHS<sup>4</sup>. These bodies have a worldwide scope and work with interpretation in 5 languages (Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). Their deliberations and decisions have profound impacts globally on safety and the environment for all modes of transport, as well on workplace and consumers' safety. These decisions cannot be taken informally. This situation has created a lot of pressure to find alternative ways, including through the deployment of new technologies, to allow these and other regulatory bodies to progress as much as possible in their work, even only on business critical matters, to minimise the impact on downstream legislation worldwide.
- 20.61 The subprogramme developed response measures including the development and implementation of a new generation of legal instruments supporting the digitalization/computerization of transport and border-crossing procedures, and the deployment of existing mechanisms and networks in order to accelerate the post-COVID-19 economic recovery of contracting parties to support Member States' efforts for a sustainable recovery. These measures included the leveraging and acceleration of digitalization/computerization of existing legal instruments on transport and border-crossing procedures, such as eTIR and eCMR. The acceleration of eTIR International System development and its promotion as the tool that ensures paperless, seamless and contactless border crossings operations while keeping the borders open and keeping drivers and customs officers protected from the virus was welcomed by TIR contracting parties. So far, 16 Contracting parties have officially requested connection to eTIR International System while several meetings have already taken place with the European Commission (28 EU Member States) analysing the interconnection of eTIR

---

<sup>4</sup> Economic and Social Council Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals; Economic and Social Council Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals; Economic and Social Council Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

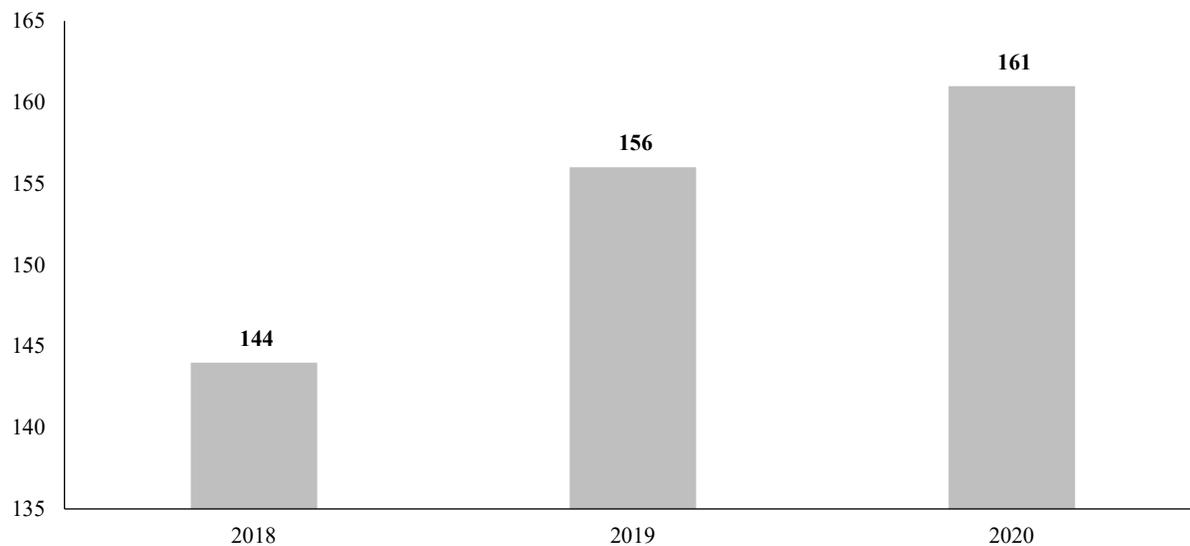
International System with EU’s new computerised transit system (NCTS). Furthermore, building on the network of Member States/contracting parties and key transport stakeholders established by the underlying legal instruments, the subprogramme developed the “Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19”, a platform that provides updated information on the current status of 174 UN Member States including the national practices and measures implemented in response to the pandemic. The Observatory had 106,000 unique views during the last four months from 207 countries / regions of this world.

*Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

- 20.62 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the increased accessions to these instruments, as indicated in figure 20.3 below.

Figure 20.3

**New accessions by Member States to legal instruments on transport and border-crossing procedures (CMR, eCMR and TIR), 2018-2020**



**Result 2: Enhanced regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems (reflected in programme plan for 2020 – A/74/6 (Sect.20))**

**Programme performance in 2020**

- 20.63 In 2020, the subprogramme, through the implementation of the Inland Transport Committee’s Strategy until 2030, scaled up its efforts to support the development of sustainable inland transport systems internationally and ensure that its activities further benefit other regions in their own efforts to curb the number of road traffic deaths and injuries; improve the environmental performance of the inland transport systems, including regarding the transport of perishable foodstuffs; and enhance efficiency and connectivity, including through digitalization and electronic documents in transport. The subprogramme also supported the participation of countries from outside the ECE region in the activities of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Furthermore, the subprogramme scaled up outreach and capacity-building activities, including through partnerships with the United Nations system and external stakeholders and participation in regional and global initiatives.
- 20.64 The above-mentioned work contributed to increased accessions worldwide to conventions and agreements under the purview of the subprogramme, with a total of 1,797 contracting parties in 2020,

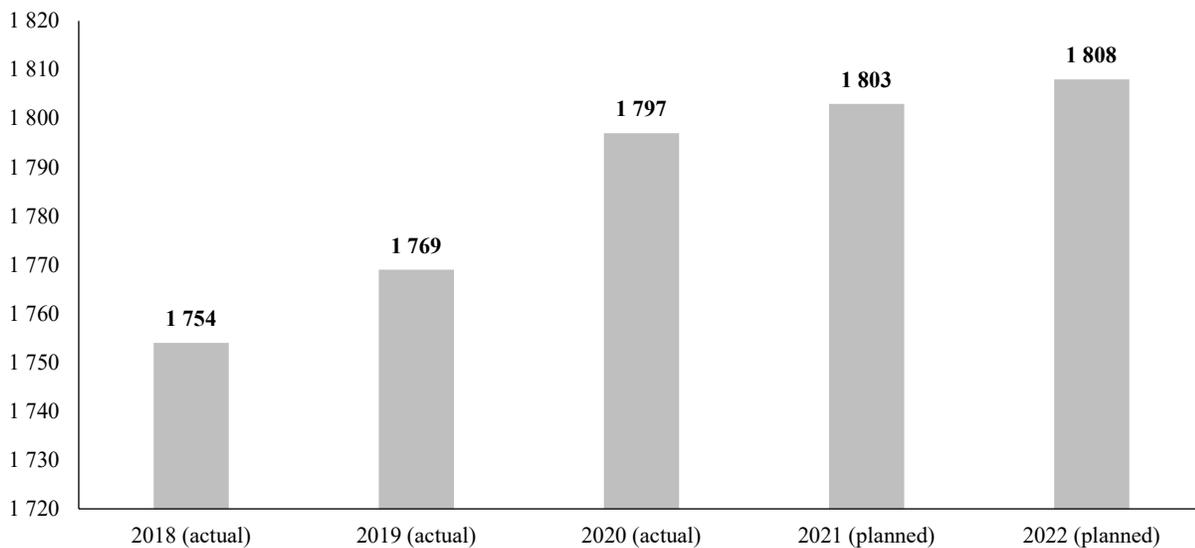
which exceeded the planned target of 1,755 contracting parties, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

**Programme plan for 2022**

20.65 The subprogramme will continue the work related to enhancing the regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems, in line with its mandate. To contribute to progress towards the objective, the subprogramme plans to further scale up its efforts to support the development of sustainable inland transport systems internationally and ensure that its activities further benefit other regions’ efforts to curb the number of road traffic deaths and injuries; improve the environmental performance of the inland transport systems, including regarding the transport of perishable foodstuffs; and enhance efficiency and connectivity, including through digitalization and electronic documents in transport. The subprogramme plans to do so through the implementation of the Inland Transport Committee’s Strategy until 2030 by, among other things, accelerating the modernization and updating of relevant legal instruments, encouraging the participation of countries from outside the ECE region in the activities of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and scaling up outreach and capacity-building activities, including through partnerships with the United Nations system and external stakeholders and participation in regional and global initiatives. The expected progress is presented in the updated performance measure below (see figure 20.4).

Figure 20.4

**Performance measure: total number of contracting parties to United Nations legal instruments on transport administered by the Economic Commission for Europe**



**Result 3: Increased number of new United Nations Member States becoming part of the regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems (reflected in programme plan for 2021 – A/75/6 (Sect.20))**

**Programme performance in 2020**

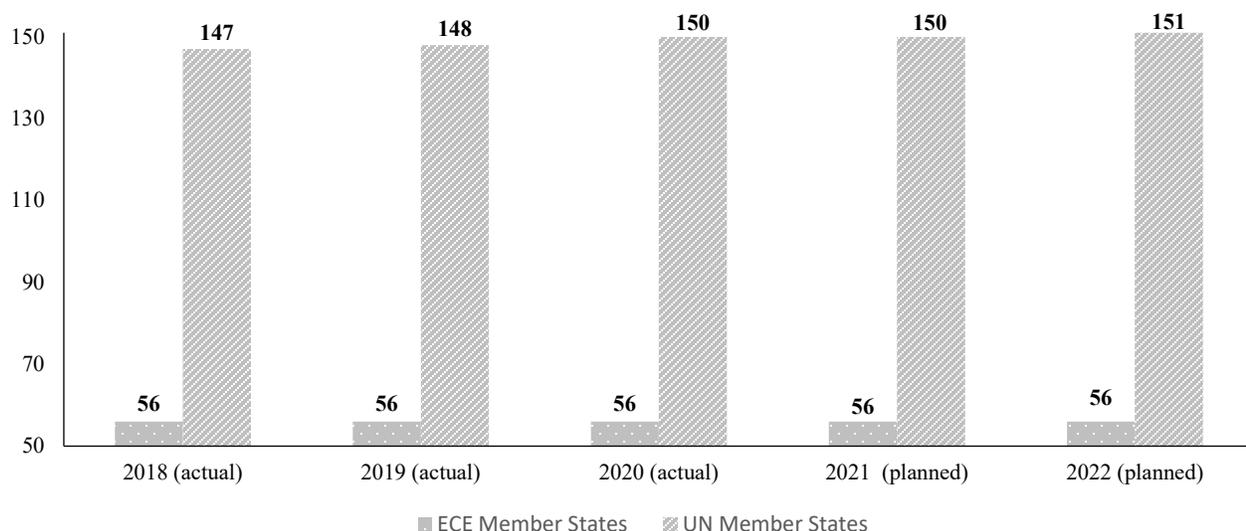
- 20.66 In 2020, the subprogramme strengthened its outreach, especially in the area of road safety, to increase the number of *new* United Nations Member States becoming part of the United Nations regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems by acceding to its conventions for the first time. The subprogramme also continued its dedicated work on amendments supporting the further globalization of its legal instruments, thus making it easier for new countries to accede. Furthermore, the subprogramme implemented or supported capacity-building workshops and country level policy reviews that further clarified the advantages of the implementation especially to UN Member States that until 2020 were not contracting parties to any of the legal instruments under its purview.
- 20.67 The above-mentioned work contributed to the accession in 2020 of two new United Nations Member States, Honduras and Brunei Darussalam, to United Nations road safety conventions, thus reaching a total of 150 out of 193 United Nations Members States that are contracting parties to at least 1 United Nations Convention under the purview of the subprogramme, which exceeded the planned target of 149, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2021.

**Programme plan for 2022**

- 20.68 The subprogramme will continue the work related to increasing the number of new United Nations Member States becoming part of the regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems that are safer, cleaner and more efficient, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will strengthen its outreach, including through core partners, to increase the number of new United Nations Member States becoming contracting parties to conventions under its purview. The subprogramme will also continue the further globalization of its legal instruments, thus making it easier and more appealing for new countries to accede. Furthermore, the subprogramme will organize or support capacity-building workshops and country level policy reviews that would further clarify the advantages of the implementation especially to UN Member States that until 2020 were not contracting parties to any of the legal instruments under its purview. The expected progress is presented in the updated performance measure below (see figure 20.5).

Figure 20.5

**Performance measure: Total number of Economic Commission for Europe member States and United Nations Member States that are contracting parties to United Nations inland transport conventions under the purview of the Commission**



## **Result 4: Strengthened regulatory support in road safety contributing to fewer worldwide road accident fatalities and injuries (new 2022 result)**

### **Programme plan for 2022**

20.69 Despite strong and consistent efforts by Member States, the international community was not able to achieve by 2020 the target of the SDGs on road safety owing to increasing, rather than decreasing, road fatalities and injuries globally. There were three milestones in 2020 for the global community's and United Nations' efforts to recognize the shortcomings and address this challenge. First, the transport leadership of the international community came together at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Ministerial Conference (Stockholm, 19-20 February 2020), in order to reach global consensus through the Stockholm Declaration on continued international collaboration on road safety up to 2030. Second, the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) of ECE adopted at its 82<sup>nd</sup> session (Geneva, 25-28 February 2020), effective 1 April 2020, the *ITC Recommendations on Enhancing National Road Safety Systems*, providing much needed direction and guidelines to Member States on how to strengthen regulatory support in road safety. Third, the General Assembly adopted on 31<sup>st</sup> September 2020 Resolution 74/299 on "Improving global road safety", inaugurating the second Decade of Action for Road Safety, setting new ambitious goals and calling for the preparation of a plan of action of the Second Decade as a guiding document to support the implementation of its objectives. All three milestones recognize the unique and critical role of ECE and by extension the Transport subprogramme in successfully addressing the continuing crisis and establish mandates for its enhanced support to worldwide efforts. Through the adoption in 2019 of the ITC Strategy until 2030, the subprogramme elaborated a 360-degree approach – regulatory, policy dialogue, analytical, capacity-building and technical assistance – to road safety in order to reap more benefits for its main beneficiaries. The approach comprises the following:

- Outreach to increase the number of countries acceding to its core road safety conventions, which support countries' efforts to develop sound national road safety systems;
- Continued development of the international legal framework and its incorporation into the production of safer vehicles;
- Dedicated work on amendments to legal instruments to accelerate their further globalization, which make it easier for countries to accede and contribute to reducing disastrous road safety risks;
- National road safety performance reviews and Road Safety System Assessments that will complement Member States' efforts to enhance their national road safety systems, by helping them, among other things, to identify gaps, prioritize tasks and channel national efforts and financial resources to high-impact investments that are based on reliable, structured and consistent analysis and recommendations. The foundation and conceptual framework for the Road Safety System Assessments is the ITC Recommendations on Enhancing National Road Safety Systems.

### *Lessons learned and response*

20.70 The lesson for the subprogramme was that despite serious efforts globally during the first Decade of Action, a lot of attention was directed on issues of raising awareness of the problem but much less was done in a coherent way to support a systematic, foundational approach to road safety that is needed in order to bring the desired results. The global community is increasingly realizing, as evidenced in General Assembly Resolution 74/299, the unique contribution the subprogramme can offer. At the same time, the subprogramme is bound by limitations to its capacity, facing challenges in meeting new demands from Member States, including new emerging areas, such as regulatory

work on automated/autonomous vehicles, digitalization and intelligent transport systems, and the need to address the overwhelming challenge in road safety, requiring the subprogramme to enhance its international regulatory work and assistance to United Nations Member States in the implementation of the United Nations legal instruments. In addition, the subprogramme would need to meet the increasing technical support requirements for the Special Envoy for Road Safety and the United Nations road safety fund.

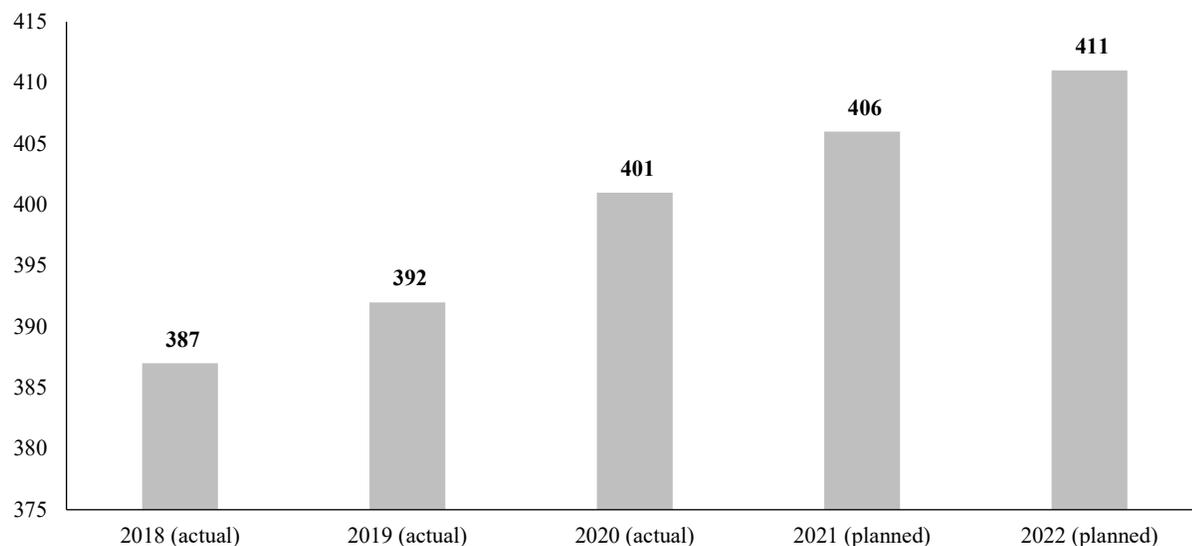
20.71 In response, the subprogramme will strongly encourage the participation of countries from outside the ECE region in the road safety activities of the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies and scale up outreach and capacity-building activities, including through partnerships with the United Nations system and external stakeholders and participation in regional and global initiatives. Furthermore, to accelerate improvements in road safety globally, the subprogramme will contribute to ECE’s efforts to mobilize political and policy support for road safety through the Secretary General’s Special Envoy for Road Safety and the operation of the United Nations Road Safety Fund. As part of its response, the subprogramme will also contribute to the formulation of a coherent global Plan of Action to support the success of the second Decade of Action. In order to achieve all these, the subprogramme will leverage new technologies, when possible, minimize disruptions in the continued implementation and updating of United Nations inland transport conventions, and ensure continued progress in the achievement of the SDGs.

*Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

20.72 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the growing number of contracting parties to the seven core United Nations Road Safety Conventions<sup>5</sup> (see figure 20.6).

Figure 20.6

**Increased total number of Contracting Parties to core UN Road Safety conventions**



<sup>5</sup> 1949 Convention on road traffic; 1968 Convention on road traffic; 1968 Convention on road signs and signals; 1958 Agreement on UN Regulations for vehicle type approval; 1997 Agreement on periodic technical inspections; 1998 Agreement on UN Global Technical Regulations on vehicle construction; 1957 Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road

## Legislative mandates

20.73 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

### *General Assembly resolutions*

58/9	Global road safety crisis	70/217	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
68/269	Improving global road safety		
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	72/212	Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development	72/271 73/243	Improving global road safety
70/197	Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors	74/299	Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
			Improving global road safety

### *Economic and Social Council resolutions*

1999/65	Reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	2013/7 2019/7	Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
---------	--	------------------	---

### *Economic Commission for Europe decisions*

ECE/AC.21/2014/2	Report of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment on its fourth session	ECE/TRANS/270	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-ninth session (Ministerial Resolution on embracing the new era for sustainable inland transport and mobility)
ECE/TRANS/224	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-fourth session (“UNECE Road Map for promoting ITS-20 global actions 2012–2020”)	ECE/TRANS/274	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eightieth session
ECE/TRANS/236	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-fifth session (Joint Declaration on the promotion of Euro-Asian rail transport and activities towards unified railway law; and Joint Statement on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links)	ECE/TRANS/288	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eighty-first session (adopting Ministerial Resolution on enhancing cooperation, harmonization and integration in the era of transport digitalization and automation; Inland Transport Committee resolution No. 265 on Ministerial declaration “Inland Navigation in a Global Setting” and on facilitating the development of the inland water transport; and Inland Transport Committee strategy until 2030)
ECE/TRANS/248	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-seventh session	B (66)	Endorsement of the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing
ECE/TRANS/254	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its seventy-eighth session	ECE/TRANS/294	Report of the Inland Transport Committee on its eighty-second session (adopting Ministerial Declaration on enhancing sustainable inland transport solutions to global climate and

environmental challenges — a united  
call to action)

*Decisions of the treaty bodies of United Nations transport agreements*

E/ECE/TRANS/ 505/Rev.3	1958 Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Harmonized Technical United Nations Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be Fitted and/or be Used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of these United Nations Regulations
ECE/RCTE/CONF/4	1997 Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform conditions for periodical technical inspections of wheeled vehicles and the reciprocal recognition of such inspections
ECE/TRANS/132	1998 Agreement concerning the establishment of global technical regulations for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or used on wheeled vehicles
ECE/TRANS/ADN/ CONF/10/Add.1	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/ AC.2/125	Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975 on its sixty-first session (annex II, "Joint statement on the computerization of the TIR procedure")

## Deliverables

20.74 Table 20.5 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.5

### Subprogramme 2: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>1660</b>	<b>1015</b>	<b>1270</b>	<b>1225</b>
1. Documentation for the Inland Transport Committee	1331	882	1077	955
a. Inland Transport Committee and Bureau	31	31	31	31
b. World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations	840	501	580	420
c. Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs	33	28	33	33
d. Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	214	146	214	214
e. Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and subsidiary groups of experts	32	20	26	26
f. Working Party on Transport Statistics	14	14	14	14
g. Working Party on Road Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	10	11	10	18
h. Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety and subsidiary groups of experts	16	16	16	40
i. Working Party on Rail Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	12	9	26	26
j. Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics	11	12	15	15
k. Working Party on Inland Water Transport	47	60	41	47
l. Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	71	34	71	71
2. Documentation for the Economic and Social Council	324	128	190	265
a. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	5	2	1	5
b. Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	257	98	157	200
c. Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	62	28	32	60
Documentation for the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment	5	5	3	5
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings eq.)	<b>369</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>387</b>
4. Meetings of the Inland Transport Committee	327	211	327	345
a. Inland Transport Committee and Bureau	16	15	16	16
b. World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations	111	74	111	111
c. Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs	8	8	8	16
d. Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	58	32	68	58
e. Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and subsidiary groups of experts	32	12	22	22
f. Working Party on Transport Statistics	6	4	6	6
g. Working Party on Road Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	6	6	6	12
h. Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety and subsidiary groups of experts	14	14	14	28

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
i. Working Party on Rail Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	6	6	6	6
j. Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics	6	6	6	6
k. Working Party on Inland Water Transport	18	17	18	18
l. Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport and subsidiary groups of experts	46	17	46	46
5. Meetings of the Economic and Social Council	40	17	35	40
a. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	1	1	0	1
b. Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	29	12	25	29
c. Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	10	4	10	10
6. Meetings of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment	2	2	2	2
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
7. Project on the Trans-European North-South Motorway	1	1	1	1
8. Project on the Trans-European Railway	1	1	1	1
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>
9. Workshops for government officials and other stakeholders in the ECE region and in contracting parties to legal instruments under the purview of the Inland Transport Committee on intelligent transport systems; transport statistics and trends; road, rail, inland water, intermodal and intersectoral transport issues; and vehicle agreements and regulations	9	7	9	8
10. Seminars for national coordinators, experts, customs officials and transport industry on the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets and the Trans-European North-South Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects	4	2	4	3
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>
11. Publications on transport of dangerous goods	3	3	3	2
12. Publications on transport of perishable foodstuffs	–	–	1	1
13. Publications on transport facilitation	–	–	1	
14. Publications on green and safe transport and cross-cutting issues	8	3	5	5
15. Publications on vehicle regulations	1	1	1	1
16. Publications on statistics	1	1	1	1
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
17. Fact sheet: what you should know about safety belts	1	1	–	–
18. Fact sheet: what you should know about advanced driver assistance systems	–	–	1	–
20. Transport statistics – country profiles	1	1	1	1

**C. Substantive deliverables**

**Consultation, advice and advocacy:** set of advisory services for contracting parties of United Nations transport conventions administered by ECE on legal instruments relating to inland transport; facilitation of transport; border crossing; road safety; vehicle construction; and transport of dangerous goods and other special cargo (1).

**Databases and substantive digital materials:** update and maintenance of the International TIR Data Bank website accessed by 2963 users from 76 contracting parties of the TIR Convention, which includes the list of the 32345 transport companies authorized to use the TIR system; TIR and e-TIR websites visited 19232 time over the past year; Internet-based inventory of standards on inland water infrastructure; web-based inventory of existing European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines and European Agreement on Important International Combined

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
<p>Transport Lines and Related Installations standards and parameters; databases on transport statistics, road traffic accidents, transport of dangerous goods, transport of perishable foodstuffs, urban transport and transport and environment; development and maintenance of the web-based Rail Security Observatory; digitalized signs and signals (E-CoRSS) under the Convention on Road Signs and Signals; smart and sustainable connectivity e-learning platform (8).</p> <p><b>D. Communication deliverables</b></p> <p><b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> information materials on legal instruments and activities of the subprogramme for universal and regional access.</p> <p><b>External and media relations:</b> annual set of press releases for the subprogramme (1).</p> <p><b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> digital platforms and multimedia content on sustainable transport and mobility (5); update and maintenance of the website of the subprogramme for universal and regional access.</p>				

## **Subprogramme 3 Statistics**

### **Objective**

- 20.75 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance official statistics at the national and international levels for evidence-based policymaking and assessing progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure the coordination of statistical activities in the ECE region under the Conference of European Statisticians (CES).

### **Strategy**

#### **Planned activities**

- 20.76 The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely, the streamlining of international statistical work in the ECE region by promoting dialogue at the Conference of European Statisticians and expert meetings; methodological work to develop and promote guidelines and recommendations to enhance the quality of statistics; statistical capacity development of ECE member States with fewer developed statistical systems, in particular to measure progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; and the maintenance and development of the ECE statistical database. ECE statistical work is strongly anchored to the 2030 Agenda, which contains calls for a follow-up on and review of the achievement of the Goals and their targets based on evidence, informed by high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated data. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the ECE nexuses on measuring and monitoring the Goals and on the sustainable use of natural resources. The work conducted under this subprogramme deals mainly with statistical methodology and capacity-building, and the main national partners are national statistical offices of member States.
- 20.77 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will continue to promote methodological work to develop statistical models, guidelines and recommendations to enhance the quality of statistics, and to promote the use of official statistics. This will be done through regional and country-specific initiatives aimed at disseminating the statistical models, guidelines and recommendations and promoting their use. Closer partnerships will be built between geospatial experts and statisticians to support the integration of statistical and geospatial information. The activities will be coordinated and implemented in cooperation with statistical departments of other regional entities such as Eurostat, OECD, the European Free Trade Association, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Eurasian Economic Commission, as well as international specialized agencies active in the region. To support the development of the statistical capacity of member States, the subprogramme will facilitate the exchange of experiences in the field of population and housing censuses and provide support to countries in planning and conducting their census. All member States were requested to conduct at least one census between 2015 and 2024 (Economic and Social Council resolution [2015/10](#)), which was also called the “2020 census round”. The majority of the countries in the ECE region will conduct the census in 2021.
- 20.78 The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by re-focusing existing activities relating to specific subject matter domains (e.g. population censuses, price statistics, environment statistics) to include exchanges of experiences and good practices in compiling COVID-19 relevant statistics whilst adapting to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Activities in cross-cutting topics such as statistics for SDGs, statistical legislation, data collection, data integration, dissemination and human resource management will also be adapted to support countries as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Expected results**

- 20.79 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in: (a) improved statistical methodology and capacity of member States to support measuring and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, including improved cost efficiency, coverage, accuracy, comparability and timeliness of dissemination of the census results; (b) increase in the number of countries who conduct the census through innovative and efficient approaches.
- 20.80 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in improved capacity of member States to provide the statistics necessary to develop evidence-based policies to manage the post-COVID recovery, which is specified in more detail under the results below.

### **Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery in 2020**

- 20.81 Owing to the impact of COVID-19 during 2020, the Statistics subprogramme had to cancel and/or postpone for the next year virtually all of the in-person meetings that were planned between mid-March until the end of the year. In many areas, the subprogramme adopted mitigation measures, such as informal online or hybrid meetings and new webinars, with substantially reduced length (approximately 50% of the time originally planned), limited opportunity for discussion, in particular when interpretation was not available, focus on the impact of COVID-19 and response by NSOs. The impact of this is particularly serious in statistical areas where 2020 is a key year, like population and housing censuses: the large majority of ECE member States (including all EU member countries) are planning to conduct their census in 2021, and the meeting that was planned in September 2020 was the last opportunity for them to share experiences with other countries before the census is carried out.
- 20.82 In addition to discussing the impact of COVID-19 and the statistical responses by countries at its online and hybrid meetings, often having this as the main discussion topic, the Statistics subprogramme identified new/modified activities to support member States on COVID-19 related issues, within the overall scope of its objectives. An interactive online platform on COVID-19 and official statistics was set up and made available on the ECE website, to guide statistical producers to existing and newly developed resources from ECE and partners to support the continued production of official statistics and to meet the emerging and rapidly changing demands for statistics. The platform offers a space for national statistical offices and international organizations to raise questions, share experiences and developments to safeguard statistical production in the face of the current crisis, providing support to member States' recovery efforts.

### **Liquidity constraints**

- 20.83 During 2020, liquidity constraints impacted the planned deliverables and activities of the Statistical subprogramme. Three expert meetings were postponed for 2021, in particular the meeting on Human Resource Management and Training of the Expert Group on Capabilities and Communication, Meeting on Statistical Data Collection and the Meeting on Statistical Dissemination & Communication). The Expert Group on Sharing tools was terminated due to liquidity constraints.

## **Result 1: Improved measurement of economic globalization and of the activities of multinational enterprise groups (MNEs) (new result 2020)**

### **Programme performance in 2020**

- 20.84 Measuring economic globalization and the activities of multinational enterprise groups (MNEs) is a major challenge facing producers of official statistics. To this end, over the last decade the

subprogramme has developed recommendations and guidelines to assist countries in measuring economic globalization. In 2020, the Guide to Sharing Economic was finalized and published. This follows in the steps of two previous guides on globalization - The Impact of Globalization on National Accounts (2011) and the Guide to Measuring Global Production (2015).

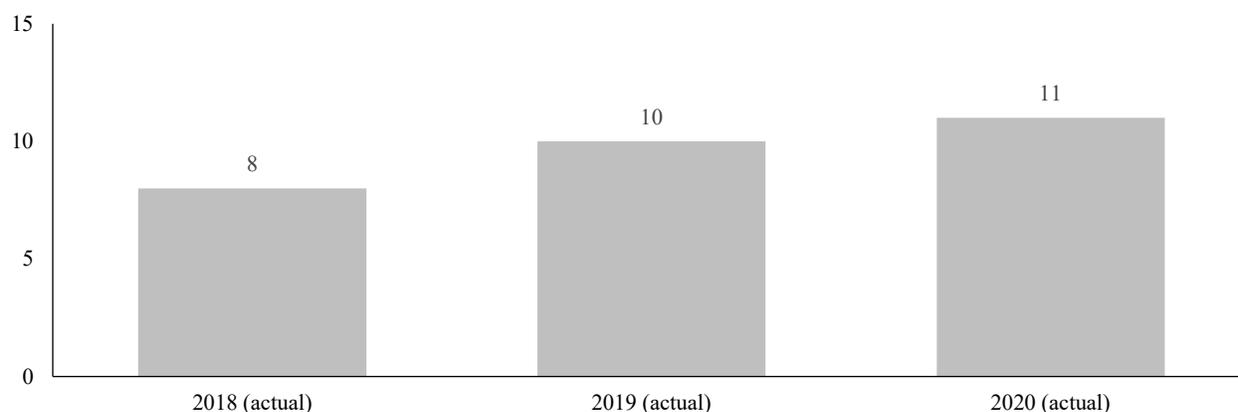
20.85 The subprogramme also promoted the implementation of the recommendations included in the guides, through the establishment in national statistical offices of Large Cases Units focusing on the measurement of the activities of MNEs. Furthermore, the subprogramme promoted a global network of MNE data experts, to which a number of countries have assigned dedicated staff. To support countries' compilation of high quality and internationally comparable macroeconomic statistics during the COVID-19 pandemic, ECE provided internationally agreed recommendations and continuity guidance.

*Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

20.86 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by number of countries that have established Large Cases Units to support the measurement of economic globalization, increased to 11 in the year 2020 (see figure 20.7).

Figure 20.7

**Performance measure:** Number of countries that have established Large Cases Units



**Result 2: Increasing the number of countries producing improved statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals (reflected in programme plan for 2020 – A/74/6 (Sect.20))**

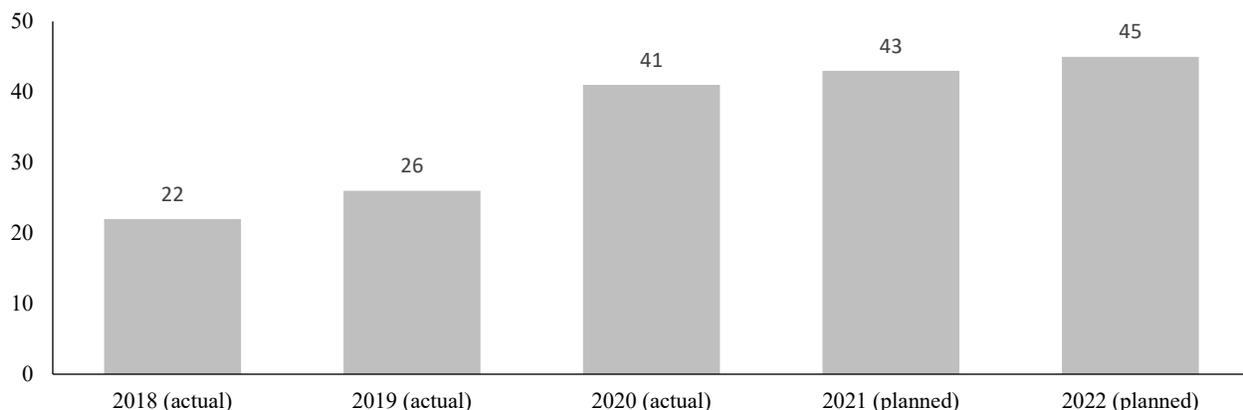
**Programme performance in 2020**

- 20.87 In 2020, the subprogramme has supported countries in producing improved statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals by providing practical guidance to implement the *Conference of European Statisticians Road Map on statistics for SDGs*. These include guidance on setting up National Reporting Platforms (NRPs) on SDGs, reports from piloting SDG indicator data transmission, good practices in communicating SDG data, etc. To provide easy access to the guidance materials and data on SDGs, ECE has set up a regional platform on statistics for SDGs, consisting of a knowledge hub and dashboard and database of SDG indicators for the ECE region. Work is ongoing on preparing the Second Edition of the Road Map to address the new challenges in providing statistics for SDGs, including in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the subprogramme is bringing together experts from national statistical, mapping and geospatial agencies, to share good practices in integrating geospatial and statistical information that is crucial for the measurement of progress towards SDGs. This was done through a collaboration agreement and joint plenary session of the governing bodies (Conference of European Statisticians and UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM: Europe)), joint task teams (for example on aligning geospatial and statistical standards), coordinating capacity building and organising joint seminars and webinars.
- 20.88 The above-mentioned work contributed to increased availability of statistics on SDGs from ECE countries. Forty-one ECE member States have set up National Reporting Platforms providing data on SDG indicators, which exceeded the planned target of 30 countries, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020. A few more countries are in the process of developing an NRP, including Bosnia and Herzegovina where ECE is providing capacity development support for this purpose.

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

- 20.89 The subprogramme will continue the work related to increasing the number of countries producing improved statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will continue to provide practical guidance to countries on the implementation of the planned Second Edition of the Road Map on statistics for SDGs. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.8).

Figure 20.8  
**Performance measure: number of national reporting platforms on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals in use by member States**



**Result 3: conducting a new population and housing census that provides cost-effective and better-quality results (reflected in programme plan for 2021 – A/75/6 (Sect.20))**

**Programme performance in 2020**

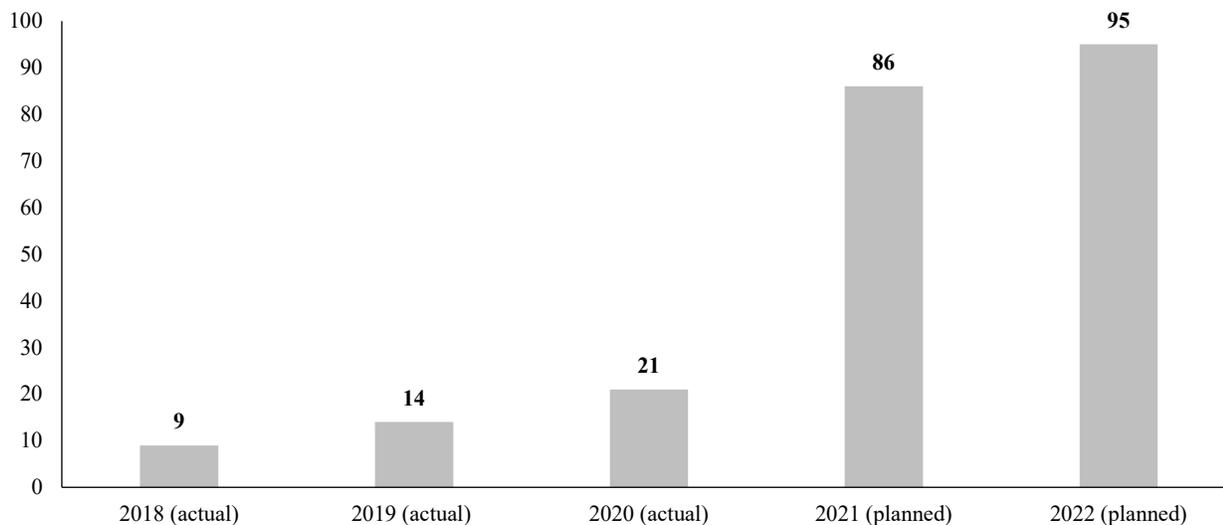
- 20.90 The subprogramme has supported member States in the planning and conducting of the population and housing censuses, in accordance with the “Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing”. It has conducted a review of the short- and long-term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on census operations and organized expert meetings to exchange experience among member States and to identify successful solutions in the context of the pandemic. The subprogramme also enhanced its online platform for exchange of experience and methodological information on the censuses. These activities have supported ECE member States in adapting their census plans and operations to the context of the pandemic while maintaining the information content and achieving cost-efficiency, coverage and accuracy of the census.
- 20.91 The above-mentioned work contributed to the completion of population and housing censuses in 21 per cent of ECE member States, which did not meet the target of 25 per cent, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2021. For most countries, the census is conducted in the way that requires enumerator personal visits, which were not possible in the COVID-19 pandemic on the intended scale. These circumstances forced many countries to postpone the census that they had originally planned for 2020.

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

- 20.92 The subprogramme will continue the work related to conducting population and housing censuses that provide cost effective and better-quality results, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will organize expert meetings to exchange experience and conduct methodological work to improve the use of administrative data for population and housing censuses. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.9).

Figure 20.9

**Performance measure: Percentage of Economic Commission for Europe countries having conducted a census in compliance with the Conference of European Statisticians recommendations**



**Result 4: Increasing the number of countries that report statistical indicators with a gender breakdown (new 2022 result)**

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

20.93 Gender data and indicators are in high demand for understanding the situation with respect to gender equality, and for monitoring SDGs and the impact of different policies on women and men. The subprogramme develops statistical capacity and promotes the use of advanced methodologies for producing data and indicators of gender equality.

*Lessons learned and planned change*

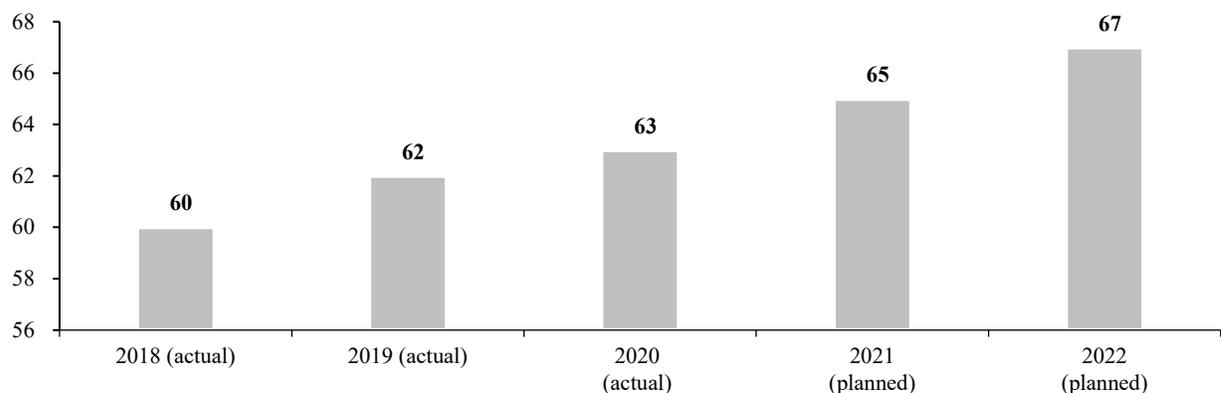
20.94 The lesson for the subprogramme was that during the COVID-19 crisis, questions surrounding the economic impact on women and men, the burden of childcare amidst school closures, and the link between social isolation measures and gender-based violence further increased the demand on timely gender statistics. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will organise ECE expert meetings and capacity building workshops to discuss the national statistical offices’ responses to these challenges. The expert exchanges and capacity development will lead to the production of improved statistical indicators from the gender perspective and their better availability.

*Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

20.95 The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the increased percentage of indicators with a gender breakdown available in the ECE SDG database, as average for the ECE member States (see figure 20.10)

Figure 20.10

**Performance measure: Percentage of indicators with a gender breakdown available in the ECE SDG database, average for the ECE member States**



**Legislative mandates**

20.96 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

*General Assembly resolutions*

67/144	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women	68/261	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
--------	---	--------	---

69/210	Entrepreneurship for development		against women and girls: sexual harassment
69/282	World Statistics Day	73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
72/234	Women in development		
73/148	Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence		

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity	2017/7	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2014/7	Further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002	2018/5	Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all
2015/10	2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme	2018/7	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2016/27	Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management		

*Economic and Social Council decisions*

2011/245	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-second session and venue and dates of and provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-third session (Statistical Commission decision 42/107: Short-term economic indicators)	2015/216	45/110: Big data and modernization of statistical systems) Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session and the provisional agenda and dates for its forty-seventh session (Statistical Commission decision 46/101: Data in support of the post-2015 development agenda
2012/230	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-third session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fourth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 43/115: Regional statistical development in Europe)	2015/216	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-seventh session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 46/102: Population and housing censuses)
2013/235	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fourth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fifth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 44/105: Environment statistics)	2015/216	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-sixth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-seventh session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 46/107: International trade and economic globalization statistics)
2014/219	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fifth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-sixth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 45/101: Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics)	2016/220	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 47/102: High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)
2014/219	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fifth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-sixth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 45/103: Programme review: broader measures of progress)	2016/220	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission
2014/219	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fifth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-sixth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision		

	decision 47/104: Big data for official statistics)	2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/114: Business registers)
2016/220	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (Statistical Commission decision 47/106: Environmental-economic accounting)	2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decision 49/101: Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)
2016/220	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-eighth session (Statistical Commission decision 47/112: Climate change statistics)	2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decision 49/102: Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/101: Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)	2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decision 49/108: Regional statistical development)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/103: Transformative agenda for official statistics)	2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decision 49/109: National accounts)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/104: Regional statistical development)	2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decision 49/113: Climate change statistics)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/107: Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics)	2018/227	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for its fiftieth session (Statistical Commission decision 49/114: Statistical classifications)
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/108: Integration of statistical and geospatial information)		
2017/228	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for its forty-ninth session (Statistical Commission decision 48/111: National accounts)		

## Deliverables

20.97 Table 20.6 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.6

### Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>81</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>81</b>
1. Documentation for the Conference of European Statisticians	43	43	43	43
2. Documentation for expert bodies	38	38	38	38
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>
3. Meetings of the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau	13	13	13	13
4. Meetings of expert bodies	72	72	72	72
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
5. Project on social and economic statistics	1	1	1	1
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
6. Workshops on social and economic statistics	3	3	3	3
7. Workshops on innovating statistical production	3	3	3	3
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
8. Publications on topics covering multiple statistical areas	1	0	1	1
9. Publications on social, environmental and economic statistics	8	7	6	6
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> advisory services for 140 government officials (staff of national statistical systems) and other stakeholders of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe on economic, social, demographic and environment statistics, statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals, geospatial statistics and institutional issues and modernization of official statistics (4 countries).				
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> update and maintenance of ECE statistical databases (SDG, population and gender statistics database; economic statistics database; transport database; forestry database) (5).				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> leaflets and other promotional materials (1).				
<b>External and media relations:</b> articles for the “UNECE Weekly” and “EnvStats” newsletters for regional access (17).				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> interactive digital workspaces (wikis, including the ECE census wiki); update and maintenance of the website of the subprogramme (1).				

## **Subprogramme 4**

### **Economic cooperation and integration**

#### **Objective**

- 20.98 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen policies on innovation, competitiveness and public-private partnerships in the ECE region.

#### **Strategy**

##### **Planned activities**

- 20.99 The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of three core interlinked functions in the subprogramme's two areas of work, i.e. Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): international policy dialogue; normative and analytical work; and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned. The two areas of work are complementary. They both contribute to SDGs 8, 9, 12 and 17. Both areas of work also contribute to the ECE nexus areas on sustainable mobility and smart connectivity and on sustainable and smart cities for all ages.
- 20.100 To contribute to the objective in the first of the above two areas of work, i.e. innovation and competitiveness, the subprogramme will continue to support member States in creating a business climate that enables and rewards innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges. It will do so by: developing good practices on how innovation can advance sustainable development and how Governments can support this; on request advising Governments on innovation policy reforms based on analyses of national innovation systems, policies and institutions; and supporting innovation policy reforms by building capacity through workshops and seminars at the national and subregional levels.
- 20.101 To contribute to the objective in the second of the above two areas of work, i.e. public-private partnerships, the subprogramme will promote innovative ways of financing, building and managing infrastructure critical for sustainable development. It will do so by developing international guiding principles and standards on how to design regulatory frameworks for PPPs in various sectors and how to design partnership projects; developing a methodology to evaluate PPP projects on whether they contribute to sustainable development ("People-first" PPPs) and assessing projects on request; and providing policy advice and capacity-building to support member States in creating regulatory frameworks and partnership project pipelines to help to close the SDG infrastructure financing gap.
- 20.102 The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by focusing some of its policy dialogues, policy analysis, policy recommendations and standards, and capacity building on the question how innovation policy and PPP projects can help to turn the crisis into opportunity by facilitating innovations and developing infrastructure that not only build back, but build a better, more resilient, sustainable and productive economy in the future.

##### **Expected results**

- 20.103 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in a shared and improved understanding among member States (a) on policy options to harness the power of innovation for sustainable development, and support national innovation policy reforms, in line with international good practice and ECE recommendations; and (b) on how to design and operate public-private partnerships that contribute to sustainable development and will lead to more "people-first" projects (i.e. projects that not only deliver value for money, but also are ecologically sustainable and socially inclusive), as well as in strengthened capacities for policy and project design and implementation.

- 20.104 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in new and better policies supporting innovation in areas critical for resilience and sustainability, and in better regulatory frameworks supporting investment in resilient and sustainable infrastructure.

### **Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery in 2020**

- 20.105 Owing to the impact of COVID-19 during 2020, the subprogramme cut back on activities that would have required travel. Moreover, the regular annual sessions of the inter-governmental bodies overseeing and contributing to the work of the subprogramme were either cancelled or converted into informal virtual consultations, followed by inter-sessional decision making by silence procedure. Country missions that had been planned to collect information for policy reviews and readiness assessments, to consult with Governments, to hold peer reviews of policy recommendations, and to build capacity were also either replaced by virtual consultations or postponed. Because fewer country missions and consultations facilitating policy reforms were carried out than originally envisaged, member States undertook fewer policy reform measures than previously expected as specified under result 2 below.
- 20.106 At the same time however, the subprogramme identified new and modified activities to support member States on issues related to COVID-19, within the overall scope of its objectives. Because scheduled bilateral and sub-regional work in and with countries was scaled back, it became possible to devote more attention to analytical work not requiring travel. As a result, the work on a PPP project assessment methodology was sped up and was completed ahead of the original schedule. Moreover, additional analytical work was undertaken to understand the impact of the pandemic and the lockdown on innovation, and the possible policy responses. The new deliverables contributed to results in 2020, as specified under result 1 below.

### **Liquidity constraints**

- 20.107 During 2020, liquidity constraints had an impact on the planned deliverables and activities of the subprogramme. The impact included cancellation of formal inter-governmental sessions because the liquidity constraints prevented the UN Office at Geneva from providing the necessary conference services, including interpretation, for sessions in hybrid form for all sessions originally scheduled during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, some inter-governmental bodies were only able to take business-critical decisions based on informal consultations and had to postpone other decisions they would have been expected to take in the absence of the liquidity crisis.

### **Result 1: The Government of Georgia received detailed recommendations on how to improve its innovation support policies based on international good practice and with a view to “building back better” post-COVID-19 (new 2020 result)**

#### **Programme performance in 2020**

- 20.108 A key part of the work of the subprogramme consists of national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews developed at the request of member States. These Reviews analyse national innovation performance, systems, institutions and policies in light of international good practice as developed under the subprogramme, and provide tailored recommendations on how innovation policies can be improved. In 2020, the subprogramme completed a review of Georgia and developed a shared understanding with the Government of Georgia of the strengths and weaknesses of current innovation performance and policies, and of policy options for improving innovation performance in pursuit of the country’s sustainable development priorities.
- 20.109 The subprogramme responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by expanding the assessments and recommendations of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Georgia to provide additional recommendations to the Government of Georgia on options for strengthening innovation

to build back better after the pandemic. These recommendations were based on additional analysis which the subprogramme carried out on the experience in the entire ECE region on this issue.

*Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

- 20.110 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the endorsement of findings and recommendations from the review by the ECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies and the publication of the review (see table 20.7).

Table 20.7

**Performance measure:**

2018	2019	2020
Request received from the Government of Georgia for a national Innovation for Sustainable Development Review; agreement reached on the scope of the review	Design of the review; constitution of a team of international reviewers; inception mission, stakeholder outreach and fact-finding missions	Endorsement of findings and recommendations from the review and publication of the review

**Result 2: Innovation policy outlook for the effective analysis of innovation policies and institutions (reflected in programme plan for 2020 – A/74/6 (Sect. 20))**

**Programme performance in 2020**

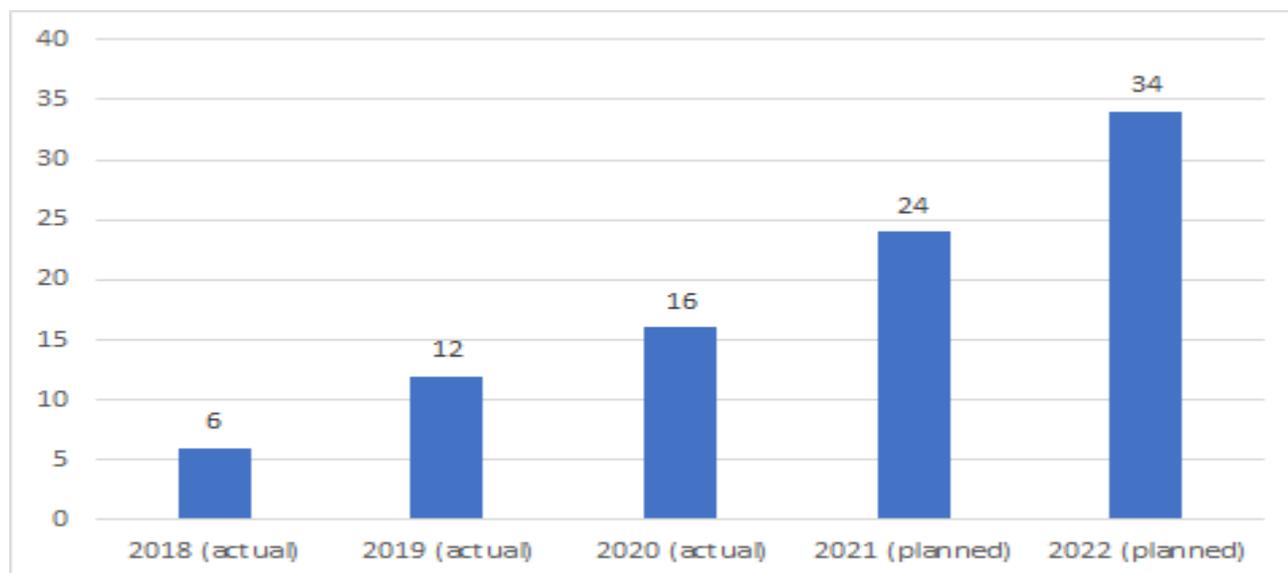
- 20.111 The subprogramme completed the sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine. The findings and recommendations were endorsed by the subprogramme’s inter-governmental process, and the Outlook was launched regionally and in the participating countries.
- 20.112 The above-mentioned work contributed to 4 additional policy measures taken by pilot project member States, which did not meet the target of 6 new policy measures, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020. This was due to the fact that the restrictions imposed in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in fewer country missions and consultations facilitating policy reforms than originally envisaged. Another contributing factor was that some Governments prioritized the immediate healthcare response to the pandemic and were not able to devote as much attention to innovation policy reform as had been expected when planning the above result.

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

- 20.113 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the Innovation Policy Outlook for the effective analysis of innovation policies and institutions, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will continue to support participating member States in implementing national innovation policy reforms based on the recommendations from the sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.11).

Figure 20.11

**Performance measure: number of national innovation policy measures taken by pilot project member States (cumulative)**



**Result 3: People-first public-private partnerships to finance sustainable development (reflected in programme plan for 2021 – A/75/6 (Sect.20))**

**Programme performance in 2020**

20.114 In 2019-2020, the subprogramme has developed the evaluation methodology for People First PPPs (formerly called the PPP Project Impact Assessment tool), circulated it for public review among key PPP stakeholders, and incorporated the feedback received.

20.115 The above-mentioned work contributed to the final version being submitted for endorsement to the ECE Working Party on PPPs, which met the planned target for 2020, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2021.

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

20.116 The subprogramme will continue the work related to People-first Public-Private Partnerships to finance sustainable development, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will evaluate and/or certify at least an additional 100 PPP projects according to ECE People-first criteria. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 20.8).

Table 20.8

**Performance measure**

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Member States agreed to set up a project team to develop a	The project team was set up and work on the project	Evaluation methodology submitted to	At least 100 public-private partnership projects evaluated	An additional at least 100 public-private partnership projects evaluated according

project impact assessment tool	impact assessment tool commenced	Member States for approval	according to ECE people-first criteria	to ECE people-first criteria
--------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------	--	------------------------------

OBJ

**Result 4: Improved capacity of selected member States to use innovation to achieve their sustainable development objectives (new 2022 result)**

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

20.117 Enhanced cooperation, knowledge sharing and capacity building on science, technology and innovation is one of the key means of implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG 17, targets 17.6 and 17.8). The evidence collected by the subprogramme and by others shows clearly that economies differ greatly in their capacity to innovate, and Governments differ greatly in their capacity to provide adequate policy support.

20.118 The subprogramme has responded to this challenge by creating a broad network of innovation policy makers and other innovation stakeholders from across the ECE region who are sharing their knowledge on innovation policy through regular policy dialogues (contributing to SDG target 17.6). Based on these exchanges of knowledge, the subprogramme has built up, and is continuously adding to, a collection of international good practices. On request, the subprogramme has been analysing the innovation systems, policies and performance of selected member States and has been benchmarking them against these international good practices. Based on these analyses (national Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews, sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook), the subprogramme has been assessing strengths and weaknesses of existing innovation policies and providing recommendations for policy improvements to the requesting Governments.

*Lessons learned and planned change*

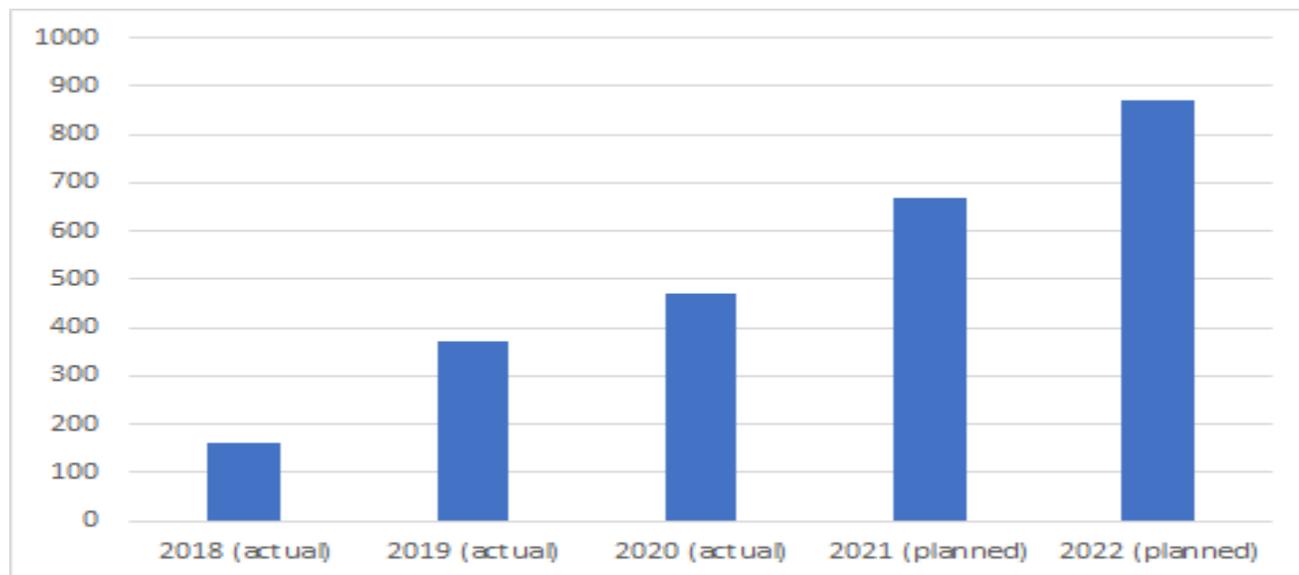
20.119 The lesson for the subprogramme was that the limited capacity building support that the subprogramme was able to provide was often not sufficient to overcome constraints in the beneficiary countries' capacity to design and implement innovation policies. As a result, policy reforms often fell short of what would have been necessary to achieve lasting improvements. In applying this lesson, the subprogramme will expand its capacity building support to requesting Governments in the follow-up to national reviews and sub-regional outlooks (contributing to SDG target 17.8). Steps in this direction have already been taken in 2019-2020 in follow-up to a national review of Belarus.

*Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

20.120 The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by an increase of 200 policy makers and other innovation stakeholders from requesting countries benefitting from ECE capacity building on innovation policy (see figure 20.12).

Figure 20.12

**Performance measure: Number of policy makers and other innovation stakeholders from requesting countries that have benefitted from UNECE capacity building on innovation policy (cumulative)**



### Legislative mandates

20.121 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme

#### *General Assembly resolutions*

<a href="#">72/228</a>	Science, technology and innovation for development	<a href="#">74/197</a>	Information and communication technologies for sustainable development
------------------------	--	------------------------	--

#### *Economic Commission for Europe decisions*

<a href="#">E/ECE/1448</a>	Economic Commission for Europe annual report (24 February 2006 – 27 April 2007)
----------------------------	---

## Deliverables

20.122 Table 20.9 below lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.9

### Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>
1. Documentation for the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and its subsidiary bodies	18	18	18	18
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>
2. Meetings of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships and its subsidiary bodies	18	8	18	18
3. Meetings of the Project Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development	1	2	1	1
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
4. Project on capacity-building for civil servants from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States on innovation and competitiveness	1	1	1	0
5. Project on capacity-building for civil servants from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States on public-private partnerships	1	1	1	0
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
6. Capacity-building and policy advisory workshops, seminars and training on innovation and competitiveness policies for sustainable development	12	6	8	8
7. Capacity-building and policy advisory workshops, seminars and training on people-first public-private partnerships	12	6	8	8
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
8. Publication on Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews	1	1	1	1
9. Publication on comparative reviews on innovation policy and/or public-private partnership readiness	2	2	2	2
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> advisory services under the Working Party on Public-Private Partnership and the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies reaching 30 government ministries and agencies and stakeholder entities.				
<b>Fact-finding, monitoring and investigation missions:</b> preparatory and fact-finding missions for Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews and public-private partnership needs assessments in 3 member States.				
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> database of infrastructure PPP projects certified and evaluated according to ECE's people-first PPP methodology from approximately 15 member States.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and launch events for the above publications for regional, sub-regional and national access.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> update and maintenance of the subprogramme's website for regional access.				

## **Subprogramme 5 Sustainable energy**

### **Objective**

- 20.123 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to improve access to affordable and clean energy for all and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.

### **Strategy**

#### **Planned activities**

- 20.124 The strategy of the subprogramme is to support international policy dialogue and cooperation among governments, energy industries and other stakeholders to foster sustainable energy development; develop and deploy ECE policy recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools on energy-related issues; and provide capacity-building and assistance to member States, at their request, through training programmes, advisory services and technical cooperation projects. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the four ECE nexus areas described in paragraph 20.5.
- 20.125 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will assist member States in integrating the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 13 by reducing the environmental footprint of energy, accelerating deep transformation of the energy sector to meet future needs, ensuring the sustainable management of resources, and assessing options to ensure energy for sustainable development. The subprogramme will promote policy dialogue and cooperation among member States, regional entities and other partners on sustainable energy issues, in particular energy efficiency, cleaner electricity systems, renewable energy, coal mine methane, resource management, natural gas and energy security through regional and country-specific initiatives aimed at improving cooperation. The initiatives include the establishment of international centres of excellence to disseminate ECE best practice guidance on methane management, ECE Framework Guidelines on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and conduct of dialogue among countries on pathways to sustainable energy. The subprogramme will provide technical assistance and guidance on energy, disseminate best practices, and improve information-sharing. The subprogramme will promote collaboration among actors who are key to implementing national and regional policies. The promotion includes engagement of stakeholders in developing normative instruments and encouragement of private and public actors in the deployment and dissemination of the instruments.
- 20.126 The subprogramme plans to support Member States on issues related to COVID-19 through work on sustainable resource management to ensure availability of critical materials and activities on high performance buildings to improve indoor air quality and health. This work will include further development and implementation of UNFC and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) for application to raw materials through workshops, capacity building and case studies and deployment and dissemination of the high performance buildings initiative (training, capacity building, and extension of the initiative's networks).

#### **Expected results**

- 20.127 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in: (a) more effective integration of sustainable energy across national policies and normative frameworks in support of the 2030 Agenda; and (b) enhanced dialogue and cooperation among all energy actors to boost

transformational investment in the energy sector and, consequently, accelerate the modernization of the energy system to meet countries' development and climate commitments.

- 20.128 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in greater availability of raw material resources needed for surveillance, response, and recovery from current and future pandemics, including the raw materials needed to produce personal protection equipment, drugs, vaccines and essential services such as food, water and energy. ECE tools such as UNFC and UNRMS help sustainable management of natural resources and support building resiliency in the supply chains for raw materials required in emergencies such as COVID-19. In addition, improvement in the performance of buildings from a health perspective (temperatures, comfort, effective air intake and recycling filters, and the like) will improve the protection and resilience of populations.

### **Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery in 2020**

- 20.129 Owing to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings of three of the Groups of Experts of the energy subprogramme (18 half days) were postponed. Much of the substantive work of the groups was delivered through webinars and online workshops, and the formal segments of the postponed meetings in March and April 2020 were merged into the limited capacity available for previously scheduled physical meetings of two other Groups of Experts (8 half days) in September 2020. Of the 8 half days, 3 were limited to 2-hours with on-line interpretation and the others had no interpretation as a result of COVID-19 response measures that prevented the UN Office at Geneva from providing the necessary conference services. Two major events, the Global Methane Forum and the annual International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, were cancelled though they had been prepared fully. Because of the additional burden of preparing the online alternatives to in-person meetings and because experts were less available to contribute as they had been previously, the full slate of 60 parliamentary documents could not be produced. Two international capacity-building seminars on renewable energy development and policy reforms for climate change mitigation were planned in 2020 but they were postponed due to COVID-19 and persisting travel restrictions. The format planned for the seminars and agreed with the donor required in-person participation for optimal delivery. In addition, development of centres of excellence notably on high performance buildings was delayed. These changes had an impact on programme performance in 2020, as specified under Result 3 below. Both outreach by ECE and activities by prospective centres on high performance buildings were delayed by limitations on travel and re-focus on COVID-19 management and response.
- 20.130 The webinars and virtual workshops that were conducted were a steep but informative learning curve on how to conduct UN business on-line. Not all of the work lends itself to online approaches, such as technical workshops in coal mines or at training laboratories, but for those topics that did there were significantly higher rates of participation by experts, better control of agendas, and more cross-cutting themes. The delivery overall involved significantly greater levels of effort with much longer working hours by the secretariat.

### **Liquidity constraints**

- 20.131 During 2020, liquidity constraints impacted the planned deliverables and activities of the subprogramme. This impact included a freeze on recruitment resulting in the increase in the Sustainable Energy Division's vacancy rate from 8% to 42%, which resulted in reduced servicing of expert groups (e.g., fewer conference calls and webinars, website and database maintenance, and constrained production of parliamentary documents). The subprogramme was able to conduct activities under the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, which has been missing a programme officer since 1 July 2020, only through topics that overlapped with

other Groups of Experts. The liquidity crisis has also constrained the subprogramme's ability to reach out to key stakeholders and fund raise.

### **Result 1: Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources to Critical Raw Materials (new 2020 result)**

#### **Programme performance in 2020**

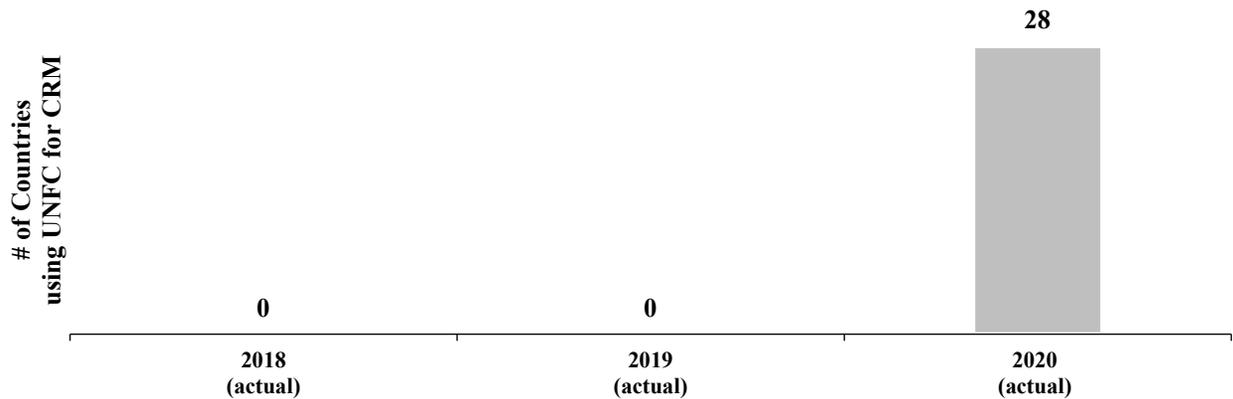
- 20.132 The demand for natural resources such as energy, minerals and freshwater is increasing at an exponential rate. The amount of natural resources used in the ECE region is doubling every 25 to 30 years. Apart from depleting the planet's resource-base, this level of consumption is unsustainable due to the environmental impacts, waste problems and carbon emissions.
- 20.133 The subprogramme has developed the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC), which includes guidelines and best practices for the energy and mineral sectors that integrate social and environmental considerations fully to facilitate attaining affordable and clean energy. A range of guidelines, best practices and case studies were either updated or developed for UNFC to extend its evaluation parameters to better embrace social, environmental, and economic considerations and to facilitate application by countries.
- 20.134 Through extensive training programmes undertaken in 2020, the subprogramme enhanced the capacity of Member States to apply UNFC as a universal standard to facilitate policy and strategy formulation, government resources management, industry business processes and capital allocation. In particular, the subprogramme assisted the European Commission (EC) to use UNFC to report critical raw materials in EU Member States. The support included capacity-building and training on: use of UNFC to harmonize different reporting codes for primary resources across the EU; use of UNFC as a consistent reporting system for secondary raw materials produced from wastes and other residues via application of the UNFC Anthropogenic Resources Specifications; and application of UNFC to deliver coherency in resource reporting under a heterogeneous legal framework. The initial testing helped confirm that: UNFC can be applied at the national and EU level; UNFC allows consistent and harmonised classification and reporting of both primary and secondary raw materials; and UNFC and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) that is being developed based on UNFC are important for sustainable resource management and land use planning.

#### *Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

- 20.135 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the number of UN Member States applying UNFC to resources that are critical for attaining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see Figure 20.13). The lessons learned and challenges faced in applying UNFC at a sub-regional level for critical raw materials in 2020 will serve as valuable experience for other countries and sub-regions working to apply UNFC to critical raw materials and other resources.

Figure 20.13

**Performance measure: number of UN Member States using UNFC for reporting critical raw materials**



**Result 2: Achieving a step change in the efficiency with which natural resources are used (as reflected in programme plan for 2020– A/74/6 (Sect. 20))**

**Programme performance in 2020**

- 20.136 The subprogramme updated the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) in 2020 and began developing a derivative tool called the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) that allows dynamic management of resource endowments in line with the 2030 Agenda. UNRMS is intended to be a comprehensive framework for the integrated and sustainable management to the natural resource base. The subprogramme has worked with UN Member States to develop case studies, conduct capacity building workshops and deploy application of UNFC nationally and regionally. Furthermore, the subprogramme has secured extrabudgetary funding for continuing development of UNFC and UNRMS and capacity-building activities over the coming years.
- 20.137 The above-mentioned work contributed to increasing the number of countries applying UNFC to 35, which exceeded the planned target of 33, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020. The subprogramme continued the development of UNRMS by preparing two advanced concept notes on UNRMS presenting the objectives, fundamental principles, requirements, regional priorities and way forward for UNRMS. A comprehensive report discussing the background and vision of UNRMS was also published in 2020. The principles and guidelines of UNRMS have been promoted as effective tools for the green recovery from COVID-19, especially in projects involving MSMEs.

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

- 20.138 The subprogramme will continue the work related to achieving a step change in the efficiency with which natural resources are used. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will extend the application and implementation of UNFC and further develop UNRMS. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (figure 20.14 and table 20.10).

Figure 20.14

**Performance measure: number of UN Member States applying UN Framework Classification for Resources**

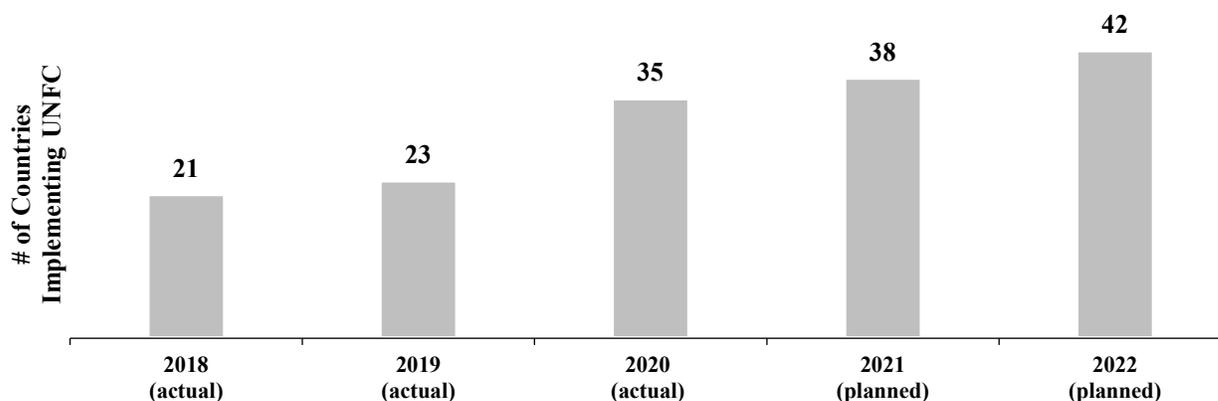


Table 20.10

**Performance measure**

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Work on development of a resource management system initiated	Draft outline of the eventual resource management system produced	Two concept notes and a report on the resource management system, including objectives, principles, requirements and way forward, produced	Member States reviewing the pre-final draft of the resource management system documentation	Member States reviewing detailed documentation of the resource management system. Implementation of pilot tests and development of case studies

**Result 3: Reduced carbon footprint and improved quality of life with high-performance buildings (as reflected in programme plan for 2021 – A/75/6 (Sect.20))**

**Programme performance in 2020**

20.139 In 2020 the subprogramme updated the framework guidelines on energy efficiency standards in buildings that underpin the ECE high-performance buildings initiative and has extended the initiative to reflect broader quality of life indicators (energy services, health, water, and climate as well as energy efficiency). In 2020 the subprogramme extended the outreach of its high-performance buildings initiative to additional communities in the United Kingdom and in eastern Europe that are expected to join the network of centres of excellence on high performance buildings in 2021 and 2022. The subprogramme advanced the research agenda on high performance buildings and is progressing projects in Central Asia to produce case studies on the development of high performance buildings.

20.140 The above-mentioned work contributed to negotiations and agreement with countries/contact with institutions and the establishment of 3 centres of excellence, which did not meet the target of 5 centres, as reflected in proposed programme budget for 2021. The development of additional centres was impacted directly by the COVID-19 pandemic. Both outreach by ECE and activities by the prospective centres were delayed by limitations on travel and re-focus on COVID-19 management and response.

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

20.141 The subprogramme will continue the work related to reduced carbon footprint and improved quality of life with high-performance buildings, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will extend the network of centres of excellence, expand the research consortium, and prepare case studies on the application of the framework guidelines on energy efficiency standards in buildings. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see Table 20.11).

Table 20.11  
**Performance measure**

<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>
Discussions with candidate hosts of the centres of excellence advanced; 1 centre established	Commitments approved by the hosts of the centres of excellence; 3 centres established	Negotiations and agreement with countries/contact with institutions; and the establishment of 3 centres of excellence	7 centres of excellence established	9 centres of excellence established

**Result 4: Developing standards for managing gases to achieve the 2030 Agenda (new 2022 result)**

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

20.142 Gases will have an important role in the future energy mix, both as an energy vectors (methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>)) and as greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>). The management of these gases will require new normative instruments. The subprogramme has supported member States as they pursued options for carbon capture and storage, CH<sub>4</sub> management, and an H<sub>2</sub> economy by helping to develop normative instruments such as recommendations, best practice guidance or standards and by disseminating and deploying the instruments. In particular, it has developed best practice guidance for methane management in both operating and abandoned coal mines and for monitoring and reporting methane emissions in the oil and gas sectors.

20.143 The natural gas infrastructure could be used to mix CH<sub>4</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>, leading to progressive decarbonization. For this to work across borders, standards on acceptable mixing proportions are needed. Also, production of H<sub>2</sub> using no-carbon energy sources could be an important option for decarbonizing energy. The subprogramme has been working with national and organisational partners on the transformation to an H<sub>2</sub> economy.

20.144 Opportunities exist to capture CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and eventually atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and to use existing infrastructure to transport CO<sub>2</sub> into long-term storage. The subprogramme has

developed and submitted policy recommendations on the deployment of carbon capture and storage as a means of minimizing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

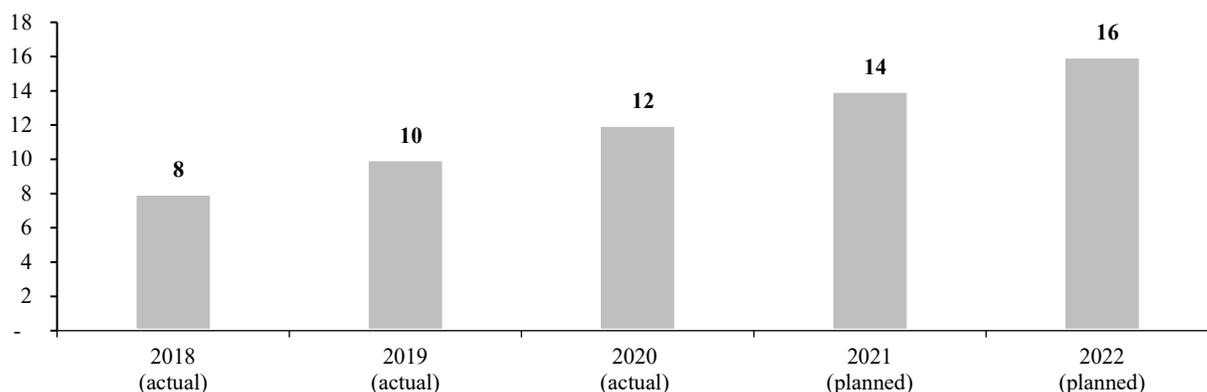
*Lessons learned and planned change*

20.145 The lesson for the subprogramme has been that engaging with relevant stakeholders throughout the process is essential for achieving effective and impactful results. This engagement was particularly strong during the process of development of these normative instruments. Equally important, we learned that the process must be inclusive, open and transparent from the outset to encourage ownership and commitment to implementation of these tools. For example, our activities engaged both governments (e.g., the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism of Austria, the Ministry of Economy of Croatia, the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation, the United States Environmental Protection Agency) and the private sector (Enagas, Equinor, Gazprom, Shell). Academia was also engaged as a key stakeholder in the development of normative instruments.

*Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

20.146 The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the number of countries applying the normative instruments developed under the subprogramme (see figure 20.15).

Figure 20.15  
**Performance measure: Number of member States applying ECE standards regarding gases (CH<sub>4</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub>)**



**Legislative mandates**

20.147 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

*General Assembly resolutions*

- 69/225 Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
- 70/213 Science, technology and innovation for development
- 72/224 Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

*Economic and Social Council decisions*

1997/226	United Nations International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities
2004/233	United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources
2011/222	Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines

**Deliverables**

20.148 Table 20.12 below lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.12

**Subprogramme 5: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory**

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>60</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>
1. Documentation for the Committee on Sustainable Energy and related subsidiary bodies	60	45	45	45
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>
2. Meetings of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, its Bureau and related subsidiary bodies	38	38	38	38
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3. Sustainable Resource Management</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Project on the application of UNFC in Central Asia	1	1	-	-
Project on UNRMS	1	1	1	1
<b>4. Reducing the Environmental Footprint of Energy</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
Projects on methane management	2	3	3	1
<b>5. Accelerating Deep Transformation of the Energy Sector</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Project on energy efficiency in buildings	1	1	1	1
Project on transboundary cooperation on renewable energy	1	1	1	1
<b>6. Supporting member States in Securing Sustainable Energy</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Project on pathways to sustainable energy (Phase 1)	1	1	-	-
Project on pathways to sustainable energy (Phase 2)	-	-	1	1
Project on Carbon Neutrality	-	1	1	1
Project on global tracking framework	1	1	-	1
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
7. Workshops for experts and government officials on the application of United Nations Framework Classification for Resources	2	2	2	2
8. Capacity-building seminars on energy efficiency measures, accelerators and standards	2	2	2	2
9. International capacity-building seminars on renewable energy development and policy reforms for climate change mitigation	2	-	2	2
10. International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development	4	-	4	4
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

## Informal document No. 2020/56

---

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
11. Publications on the best practice guidelines, case studies and other publications related to sustainable energy	2	2	3	5
12. Natural Resource Nexuses in the ECE Region (ECE nexuses publication)	-	1	-	-

### **D. Communication deliverables**

**Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:** booklets on sustainable energy and related topics (6), for regional access.

**External and media relations:** press releases, keynote speeches and articles (16).

**Digital platforms and multimedia content:** update and maintenance of subprogramme's website providing access to information and documents for regional and global audiences

---

## **Subprogramme 6**

### **Trade**

#### **Objective**

- 20.149 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen trade facilitation and electronic business, regulatory cooperation and standardization policies, agricultural quality standards and trade-related economic cooperation in the ECE region and beyond.

#### **Strategy**

##### **Planned activities**

- 20.150 The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of core interlinked functions. The first function is international policy dialogue on: reducing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade that hamper market access, including those caused by cumbersome procedures and substantial paperwork; differences in trade procedures, standards and documents; and divergent regulatory approaches and product standards. The second function is normative work to develop standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation and e-business, agricultural quality standards and regulatory cooperation. The third function is focused on capacity-building and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in all areas of work. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the ECE nexuses on sustainable mobility and smart connectivity, the sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable and smart cities for all ages, and to the cross-cutting theme of circular economy.
- 20.151 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will continue to promote simple, transparent and effective processes for global trade. The subprogramme will also continue its normative work to develop standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation and electronic business. Furthermore, the subprogramme will facilitate international policy dialogue on establishing digital trading environments and ensuring compliance with the requirements of the multilateral trading system, and dissemination of the instruments such as standards, recommendations and guidelines. The subprogramme will also promote sustainable and resilient value chains and enhanced traceability and circularity, e.g. minimizing waste and maximizing the use of natural resources towards circular economy, through studies, policy dialogues, technology-based pilot initiatives (for example, blockchain based traceability for textile value chains) etc. This work will support member States make progress towards SDGs 8 and 12.
- 20.152 The subprogramme will continue to promote a predictable and harmonized regulatory environment through strengthening regulatory cooperation and promoting standards and best practices in regulatory frameworks, risk management, conformity assessment and market surveillance. The subprogramme will also disseminate gender-responsive standards, which aim at providing a practical way forward for standards bodies wishing to make both their standards and the standards development process gender responsive. In addition, it will disseminate standards for Sustainable Development Goals, which showcase information on voluntary standards and maps them according to the Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda 2030. This work will support member States make progress towards SDGs 17 and 5.
- 20.153 The subprogramme will continue to promote up-to-date agricultural quality standards and explanatory guidelines through its normative work in these areas. Mindful of 1.6 billion tonnes of food lost or wasted while more than 800 million people suffer from hunger worldwide, the subprogramme will also address food loss and waste, by promoting awareness on food loss reduction through policy dialogues, partnerships with international organizations, technology based initiatives (e.g. blockchain based food loss application) etc.. This work will support member States make progress towards SDG 12.

- 20.154 The subprogramme will continue to carry out analytical evidence-based studies to identify regulatory and procedural barriers to trade and assist Governments in setting action-oriented recommendations for implementing the above-mentioned instruments. This work will support member States make progress towards SDG 12.
- 20.155 The subprogramme plans to support Member States on issues related to COVID-19 by further deepening its normative, technical assistance and capacity building activities as well as international policy dialogue of the subprogramme on digitalisation in order to support a sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19. This work will support member States make progress towards SDG 8 and 9.

### **Expected results**

- 20.156 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in the following areas, which contribute towards achieving the relevant SDGs: (a) simplified trade processes, increased digitalisation and greater productivity; (b) increased transparency and traceability of the value chains and reduction of waste promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns; (c) greater uptake of international standards by countries, in order to enable the implementation of internationally harmonized regulatory processes; (d) support to facilitate trade as a means for implementing the SDGs; and (e) increased gender equality.
- 20.157 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in enhancing digitalisation of trade (e.g. progress towards adoption of trade-related digital services like Single Windows) in the ECE member States, which is specified in more detail under result 4 below.

### **Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery in 2020**

- 20.158 Owing to the impact of COVID-19 during 2020, the subprogramme had to change the approach to deliver its normative products but was forced to either cancel or postpone the capacity building and technical assistance activities. The subprogramme had to cancel 7 physical inter-governmental meetings and organized informal online consultations without interpretation. The following meetings were replaced with Virtual Informal Consultations: 6th session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policy and the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (including the 4 meetings of its Specialized Sections). The business-critical decisions proposed by these consultations were adopted in an emergency “Silence Procedure” with Geneva based missions. The subprogramme’s capacity-building and technical cooperation activities were cancelled or postponed in many of the 17 programme countries mainly due to the COVID-19 situation and related travel bans. Despite the challenges, the subprogramme continued to engage virtually with member States both through their Geneva missions as well as in the capitals. These changes had an impact on the programme performance in 2020, as specified under result 3.
- 20.159 At the same time, the subprogramme identified new activities and modified its existing activities to support member States on issues related to COVID-19, within the overall scope of its objectives. The subprogramme stepped up its activities to increase awareness to existing tools and policy guidance to overcome COVID-19 effects on the logistic chain and intensified its participation in joint activities with partners, aimed at supporting a sustainable economic recovery from the pandemic. For example, the subprogramme created two webpages (trade facilitation and food) to increase awareness and accessibility to standards, recommendations, training materials, reports; published news articles to disseminate how existing standards and tools of the subprogramme can be used to address trade-related impacts of COVID-19;

developed a report on how advanced technologies can be used to support trade facilitation in the pandemic; conducted studies on the impact of COVID-19 on e-commerce in ECE member States, and on trade in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Serbia and initiated similar studies targeting women owned enterprises in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova; pilot-tested an additional module on impacts of COVID-19 in Kyrgyzstan of the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation; and in collaboration with UNCTAD initiated work to help Kyrgyzstan to develop own system for sharing information on changes in non-tariff measures (NTM) legislation with neighbouring countries and for publishing this information on the UN Global NTM online database. The modified/new deliverables contributed to results in 2020, as specified under result 1 below.

### **Liquidity constraints**

- 20.160 During 2020, liquidity constraints had an impact on the planned deliverables and activities of the subprogramme. The impact included replacing formal inter-governmental sessions with informal consultations because the liquidity constraints prevented the UN Office at Geneva from providing the necessary conference services, including interpretation. Liquidity constraints also impacted the recruitment of staff. Vacant posts were not filled, and travel and consultant budget were not available after the first month of the year. These restrictions caused delays in the management of some capacity building projects and finalization of some publications.

### **Result 1: Increased access to analytical information on COVID-19 impact on trade (new 2020 result)**

#### **Programme performance in 2020**

- 20.161 The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted global trade and supply chains. According to the latest World Trade Organization (WTO) data, global merchandised trade volume dropped by more than 14 percent in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. Some borders were closed temporarily, logistics operations were halted, and businesses were closed either partially or fully. There was a shortage of supply for essential products like medicine and food. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) assesses that food accessibility and security will be at significant risk if global trade disruption is not adequately addressed. It is widely accepted that the impact of the pandemic is likely to continue for several years. In this context, the subprogramme re-focused its activities to a sustainable and resilient recovery for ECE member States. For instance, as part of its information provision function, the subprogramme launched a website for sharing information on food trade flows in member States and a webpage on trade facilitation resources developed by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) to support the Governments overcoming the impact of COVID-19. The large number of visits documents the concrete value-added of responding to the need for facts-based information by trade stakeholders. As parts of its core, normative function, the subprogramme has started supporting the development of a normative instrument jointly with other agencies through a UN/CEFACT project to support member States to expedite joint controls of essential goods and to ease cross-border trade flows during and in the aftermath of a global health crisis. Furthermore, the subprogramme, through UN/CEFACT, produced a report on the ways how advanced technologies can help overcome such disruptions and a White Paper on the response to pandemic-related trade flow disruption.
- 20.162 As part of its analytical and technical assistance function, the subprogramme is reviewing the impact of the crisis on trade and structural transformation in five member States. The reviews trace how non-tariff measures (NTMs) governing trade in goods influence end-to-end supply

chains and highlight the lingering effects of the pandemic. Undertaken in the context of ECE’s Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade under the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, the assessments use ECE’s evaluation methodology for designing targeted interventions for rebuilding stronger and more resilient post-COVID-19 economies. The findings and recommendations for the first review in Georgia were shared with the relevant Government agencies, and their comments were integrated into the report. ECE has shared the findings and recommendations with the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in Georgia to inform the United Nations Country Team planning processes. The report was also shared with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) as part the United Nations surge effort for supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Assessments to date are available at: <https://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/studies-on-regulatory-and-procedural-barriers-to-trade.html>. The subprogramme started another project to develop solutions for contactless, seamless, and collaborative transport and trade.

*Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

- 20.163 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by a study report, including recommendations, on Non-Tariff Measures affecting the imports and exports of crucial materials and on the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on international trade and logistics in Georgia, and two webpages containing COVID-19 related resources on trade facilitation and food outlook for the member States. Total number of page views for the above reached 1004 demonstrating increased availability and access to COVID-19 related information for the member States (see table 20.13).

Table 20.13  
**Performance measure**

2018	2019	2020
N/A	N/A	A study report, including recommendations, on Non-Tariff Measures affecting the imports and exports of crucial materials and on the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on international trade and logistics in Georgia, and two webpages containing COVID-19 related resources on trade facilitation and food outlook for the member States, produced and disseminated

## **Result 2: Enhancing trade efficiency in Central Asia (reflected in programme plan for 2020 – A/74/6 (Sect. 20))**

### **Programme performance in 2020**

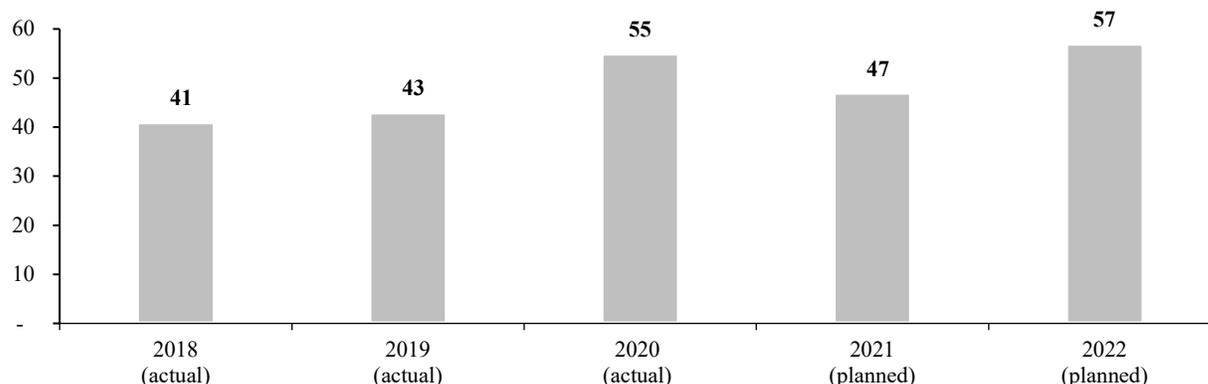
- 20.164 From 2018 to 2020, the subprogramme continued to develop trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards for four Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). The subprogramme also supported Central Asian countries through technical assistance and capacity-building activities for the adoption of national trade facilitation strategies and implementation of World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Furthermore, the subprogramme continued to support the conduct of the Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, a joint initiative by the United Nations Regional Commissions undertaken once every two years. Through follow-up workshops and meetings, the subprogramme discussed the results of the trade facilitation reform progress review with the Central Asian member States and identified policy priorities to implement appropriate trade facilitation measures.
- 20.165 The above-mentioned work contributed to an average trade facilitation implementation rate of 55 percent of Central Asian ECE member States, which exceeded the planned target of 45 percent, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020. Furthermore, the Central Asian countries adopted three trade facilitation measures including the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap (Tajikistan), National Single Window (Kazakhstan) and information portals related to export, import and transit procedures (Kyrgyzstan), which met the planned target as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

### **Proposed programme plan for 2022**

- 20.166 The subprogramme will continue the work related to enhancing trade efficiency in Central Asia, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective and in response to recent developments, the subprogramme will increase capacity-building and outreach activities for digitalization of trade processes in the pursuit of a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Trade is likely to fall as the economic impact of the pandemic may continue for several years. Hence, towards the end of 2020 and during 2021, trade facilitation implementation and supply chain connectivity are expected to be impacted due to further disruption in logistics, transportation, health and safety measures and potential closure of regulatory and commercial services. However, the subprogramme will support the Central Asian countries to address these challenges to reduce the impact on trade facilitation implementation. It is expected that by 2022, the average trade facilitation implementation rate will start to increase again. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.16 and table 20.14).

Figure 20.16

**Performance measure: average trade facilitation implementation rate (percent) of Central Asian ECE member States**



*Notes:* The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is undertaken every two years. The data for 2018 are taken from the 2017–2018 survey, data for 2019 are estimated for the intermediate result, and data for 2020 has been taken from the 2019–2020 survey. Actual data for 2021 will be taken from 2021 survey as the survey is expected to be completed by the time of reporting for 2021.

Table 20.14

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
N/A	The Central Asian member States start to formulate standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business.	The Central Asian member States integrate or adopt 2 or 3 standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business.	The Central Asian member States integrate or adopt 2 or 3 additional standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business.	The Central Asian member States improve or strengthen the implementation of the standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business, adopted or integrated in the previous years.

### **Result 3: Improved traceability in the garment sector (reflected in programme plan for 2021 – A/75/6 (Sect.20))**

#### **Programme performance in 2020**

20.167 From 2018 to 2020, the subprogramme has been developing a sectoral framework for traceability and transparency of sustainable and circular value chains in the garment and footwear industry based on global standards. This includes: a policy recommendation, implementation guidelines, a call to action, and a technical standard for “Enhancing transparency and traceability for sustainable and circular garment and footwear value chains”. To develop this framework and support its uptake and implementation, the subprogramme has mobilized a multi-stakeholder network of experts representing governments, private sector,

international organizations, civil society and think tanks (over 170 experts, including from associations representing more than 190,000 businesses globally).

- 20.168 The above-mentioned work contributed to piloting the transparency and traceability framework for sustainable and circular value chains in the cotton sector in five countries and in partnership with eight businesses, including brands, manufacturers and farmers, and involving innovative start-ups and technology solution providers, which met the planned target, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2021.

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

- 20.169 The subprogramme will continue the work related to improved traceability in the garment sector, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will implement the framework in three additional countries, with a focus on transition economies in the ECE region. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 20.15).

Table 20.15  
**Performance measure**

<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>
European Union, International Labour Organization, International Trade Centre and ECE agreed to develop transparency and traceability system for sustainable supply chains	Development of the transparency and traceability system by ECE/United Nations/United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business experts and partners	Piloting of the transparency and traceability system in multiple countries and businesses	Implementation of the transparency and traceability system by three countries	Implementation of the transparency and traceability system by three additional countries

**Result 4: Enhancing digitalisation of trade in the ECE member States (new result for 2022)**

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

- 20.170 Global trade has been hit hard due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Digitally enabled solutions to trade-related services have played an important role during the pandemic period as physical distancing is a key protective measure against virus infection. Building back better requires innovative solutions that support a sustainable and resilient recovery. A priority of the subprogramme is to facilitate trade through greater digitalisation i.e. simplification and dematerialisation of trade processes, adoption of information and communication technology, adoption and harmonisation of international standards and guidelines, and promotion of interoperable digital systems. The subprogramme has been developing trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards for many years through the

intergovernmental body, UN/CEFACT. To date, UN/CEFACT has produced more than 40 policy recommendations on trade facilitation, over 400 electronic business standards, several training materials, and other guidance materials, which are available freely to the global trading community. This normative work along with policy guidance, technical assistance and capacity building activities are geared towards greater digitalisation of trade. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the focus on digitalisation will be further emphasized in the normative, technical assistance and capacity building activities of the subprogramme in order to support a sustainable and resilient recovery.

*Lessons learned and planned change*

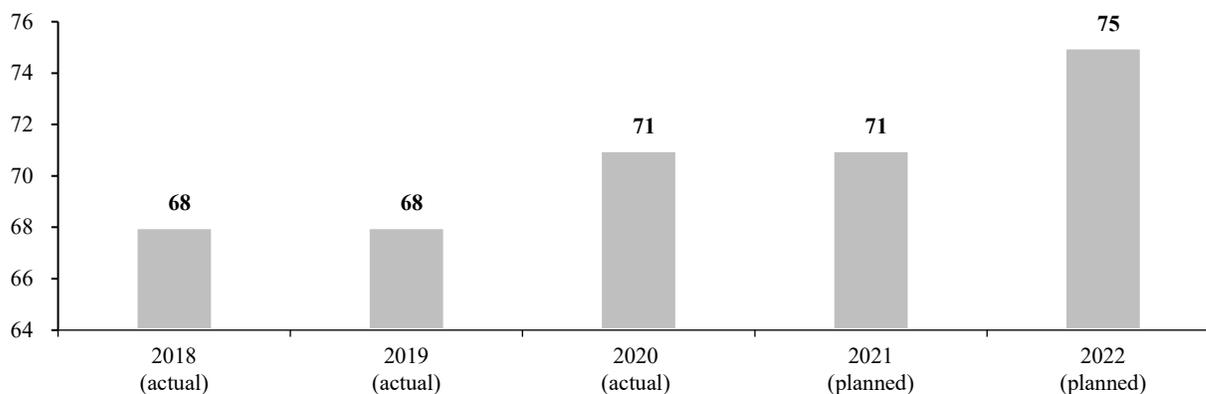
20.171 The lesson for the subprogramme was the growing strategic need to prioritize certain cross-cutting themes to work on, given the diversity of the topics addressed by the subprogramme. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will integrate the cross-cutting themes like digitalisation, circularity, and sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic in the 17 programme countries in the ECE region. For example, electronic traceability systems and digital trade-related regulatory services could make the trading environment more sustainable and resilient. Finally, the subprogramme will enhance engagement with the 17 programme countries through technical assistance and capacity building activities.

*Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

20.172 The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by an increase in average implementation rate of digital trade facilitation measures in the ECE member States (see figure 20.17). The data shown in the figure have been extracted from the ‘Paperless Trade’ category of trade facilitation measures covered in the United Nations Global Surveys on Digital and Sustainable Trade, which is undertaken every two years jointly by the five United Nations Regional Commissions. The subprogramme will conduct the next Survey in 2021 and plans to include an additional component about the impact and best practices on trade facilitation due to COVID-19.

Figure 20.17

**Performance measure: average implementation rate of digital trade facilitation measures in the ECE member States**  
(Percentage)



## Legislative mandates

20.173 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

### *General Assembly resolutions*

69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	71/239	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development	71/242 73/253	Industrial development cooperation Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
70/217	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries		

### *Economic and Social Council resolution*

1991/76	Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation
---------	--

### *Economic and Social Council decision*

1997/225	Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25, entitled “Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard”
----------	---

## Deliverables

20.174 Table 20.16 below lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.16

### Subprogramme 6: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>110</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>
1. Documentation for the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards	13	7	13	13
2. Documentation for the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	13	8	13	13
3. Documentation for the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards	60	65	60	60
4. Documentation for the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business	24	23	24	24
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>91</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>
5. Meetings of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and its Bureau	7	3	7	7
6. Meetings of Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	5	4	5	5
7. Meetings of Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its specialized sections	26	16	26	26
8. Meetings of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business	53	42	53	53
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
9. Projects on trade facilitation	3	3	3	3
10. Project on food loss and agriculture	1	1	1	1
<b>Seminars, workshops, and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>
11. Seminars for standardization and inspection agencies and other stakeholders in transition economies and developing countries in the ECE region or beyond on ECE agricultural quality standards	6	2	6	6
12. Seminars for policymakers and experts in transition economies and developing countries in the ECE region or beyond on support for the implementation of trade-related standards, recommendations, and guidelines	9	4	9	9
13. Workshops for policymakers and experts in low- and middle-income countries in the ECE region on trade procedures, supply chain management, conformity assessment and market surveillance and women's entrepreneurship	3	1	3	3
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
14. Publication on the summary of ECE trade facilitation best practice and recommendations	1	1	1	1
15. Publications on the guides on trade standards in the following areas: traceability and risk management; e-business; education; and sustainable development	2	1	1	1
16. Publications on the trade facilitation recommendations, standards, and strategies to support policymakers	2	2	5	5
17. Publication on agricultural trade and supply chains	1	-	1	1

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
18. Publication on the regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in a country to be decided	1	1	1	1
19. Publication on risk-based inspections and disaster and sustainable development	-	-	1	1
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
20. Standards and guidelines on agricultural quality	4	4	4	4
21. Training material on trade facilitation and electronic business	1	1	1	1
22. Material on trade standards	2	1	2	2
23. Guidelines on cross-border trade	1	1	1	1

**C. Substantive deliverables**

**Consultation, advice, and advocacy:** advisory services to government officials and other stakeholders in five ECE programme countries on trade facilitation and electronic business, agricultural quality standards, regulatory cooperation and standardization and regulatory and procedural barriers to trade.

**Fact-finding, monitoring and investigating missions:** fact-finding missions in ECE member States on trade facilitation and electronic business, agricultural quality standards, regulatory cooperation and standardization and regulatory and procedural barriers to trade.

**D. Communication deliverables**

**Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:** booklets, fact sheets and information brochures reaching at least 17 ECE programme countries, more than 1000 public and private sector experts.

**External and media relations:** annual set of press releases for the subprogramme for regional access.

**Digital platforms and multimedia content:** update and maintenance of the website and databases, which is provided to approximately 500,000 users accessing webpages, databases etc.

## **Subprogramme 7 Forests and the Forest Industry**

### **Objective**

- 20.175 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen the sustainable management of forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region.

### **Strategy**

#### **Planned activities**

- 20.176 The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely, analytical and normative work, international policy dialogue, capacity-building and communication. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the ECE nexus area on the sustainable use of natural resources. As part of its implementation strategy, the subprogramme will carry out its work in partnership with FAO and other relevant organizations and processes (e.g., International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Agroforestry (ICRAF) and Forest Europe).
- 20.177 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will continue to assist, and promote cooperation with, member States, regional entities and other partners for sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration and the sustainable use of forest products. The subprogramme will also be collecting, validating and disseminating information and results of research and analysis related to sustainable forest management and the sustainable production and consumption of wood products. The subprogramme will further facilitate the exchange of national experiences and best practices and monitor progress on achieving sustainable forest management using key forest sector indicators. The subprogramme will support member States in making progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Goals 12 (responsible consumption and production) and 15 (life on land), as well as in implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (General Assembly resolution 71/285).
- 20.178 The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by providing information in presentations and panel discussions during sessions of its Committee and Working Party, publications such as the outlook study and sub-regional studies, and webinars on how the forest sector is and will be affected by the global pandemic and how it can contribute to building back better economies and more resilient communities.

#### **Expected results**

- 20.179 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in: (a) healthy forest ecosystems in the ECE region, that are sustainably managed and provide important ecosystem goods and services to benefit society, and (b) an increased and efficient use of sustainable forest products that contribute to a green and circular economy and replace less sustainable alternatives such as fossil-fuel based products.
- 20.180 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to enable stakeholders to take well-informed decisions on how forests can play a key role in building back better during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme in delivery in 2020**

- 20.181 Owing to the impact of COVID-19 during 2020, the subprogramme had to adjust the dates of several Team of Specialists meetings and delivered these meetings in a virtual format. The 78th session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry was held in an online hybrid format with reduced sessions (each half day) duration from 3 to 2 hours. Furthermore, the 42nd Session of the

Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management was postponed to 2021. In order to still deliver on the agreed roadmap on the revision of the subprogramme’s integrated programme of work, the subprogramme held virtual, informal consultations with its delegates. Finally, the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the ECCA30/Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe also had to be postponed to the first half of 2021. On this activity, the subprogramme supported respective countries in a new, alternative format with individual online consultations. The latter change had an impact on the programme performance in 2020, as specified under result 3 below.

**Result 1: Creating tools and knowledge to bring more people into green jobs in the forest sector (new result 2020)**

**Programme performance in 2020**

20.182 In the past decades, forest sector employment has fallen, primarily because of higher labor productivity. In addition, the recession, caused by the financial crisis of 2008, increased unemployment and economic hardship in forest-dependent communities and regions. The subprogramme has analysed the current state of the forest sector workforce in the ECE region and together with a group of experts identified new fields of activity that will contribute to rural development and help retain jobs in small- and medium-sized enterprises in the forest sector. These job opportunities can also create new employment for professional groups that may incur job losses in the process of the transition to a green economy and support the integration into the labour market of vulnerable and under-represented groups, such as young people and women.

20.183 From 2018 to 2020, the subprogramme also analysed major transformation drivers of green jobs in the forest sector development, and mapped existing and emerging green jobs, skill requirements, and education needs for forest professionals in the ECE region. Furthermore, the subprogramme prepared guidelines for the promotion of green jobs in forestry and organized several knowledge sharing activities.

*Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

20.184 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by utilizing the framework for classifying green forest jobs and the information gained from stakeholder consultations to produce three essential publications on green forest jobs (see table 20.17). The publications and tools developed and disseminated by the subprogramme contributed to improved understanding on how to attract more young people and women into the forest work and how to navigate occupational hazards in the sector.

Table 20.17  
**Performance measure**

2018	2019	2020
Development of a framework for classifying green forest jobs, to improve stakeholders’ knowledge and capacities in classifying green forest jobs	Application of the framework for classifying green jobs in stakeholder consultations, discussions, and meetings. This contributed to an improved understanding by policy makers on the challenges for green forest jobs and which opportunities they may offer to ECE member States.	Utilize the framework for classifying green forest jobs and the information gained from stakeholder consultations to produce three essential publications on green forest jobs

**Result 2: Are we there yet? Measuring sustainable forest management under Sustainable Development Goal 15 (reflected in programme plan for 2020 – A/74/6 (Sect. 20))**

**Programme performance in 2020**

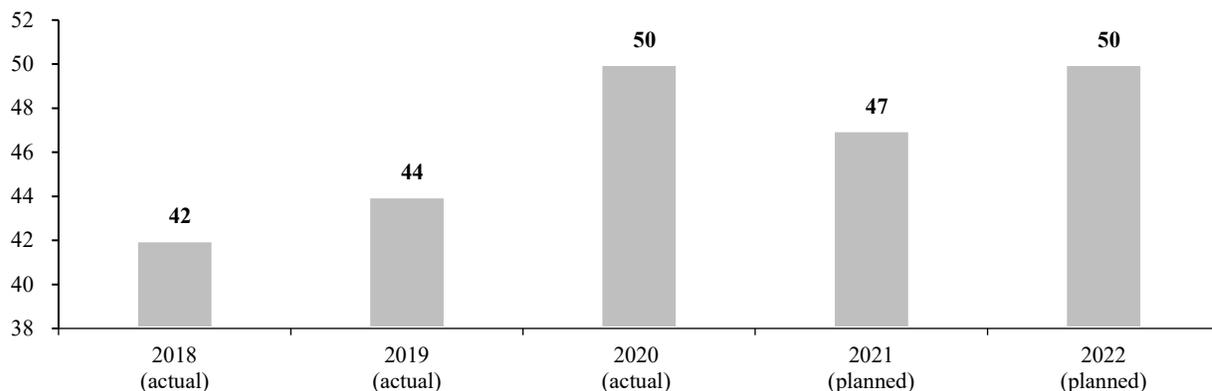
- 20.185 The subprogramme has, in cooperation with FAO and other regional partners, supported countries of Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, in concluding their work on national reporting on forest related Sustainable Development Goals indicators. In the period up to 2020, the subprogramme also, jointly with FAO and Forest Europe, provided support to countries of the pan-European region in the finalization of the reporting on forests and sustainable forest management, which extends and complements the scope of information reported to the SDG process. Furthermore, the subprogramme has undertaken extensive work on developing on-line tools to store and disseminate the collected data. These tools are all available and expected to be operational for the coming years.
- 20.186 The above-mentioned work contributed to 50 Economic Commission for Europe member States reporting data on targets 15.1 and 15.2 of the SDGs, which exceeded the planned target of 46 countries reporting data, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

- 20.187 The subprogramme will continue the work related to measuring sustainable forest management under SDG15, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will aim at maintaining the high number of reporting countries and continue work with partner organizations and countries towards improving completeness and quality of reporting data. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.18).

Figure 20.18

**Performance measure: number of Economic Commission for Europe member States that report data on targets 15.1 and 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals**



**Result 3: Strengthening capacity and political commitment for ecosystem restoration in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe (reflected in programme plan for 2021 – A/75/6 (Sect.20))**

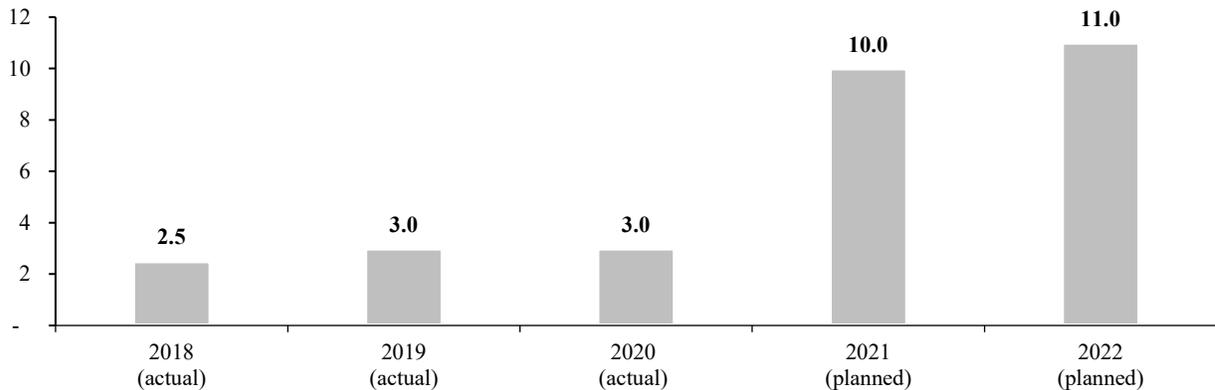
**Programme performance in 2020**

- 20.188 The subprogramme organized two virtual meetings to brief countries on the Bonn challenge pledging and organizational issues, as well as to provide an overview of financing opportunities to support countries in the implementation of forest landscape restoration pledges. Furthermore, the subprogramme prepared briefings for national focal points of 14 countries of Eastern and South-East Europe followed by individual, informal video calls with the respective country representatives.
- 20.189 The above-mentioned work contributed to 3 million hectares committed under the Bonn Challenge, which did not meet the target of 7 million hectares, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2021. Countries had planned to announce their official pledges at the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the ECCA20/Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South East Europe which was postponed to 2021 due to travel restrictions in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

- 20.190 The subprogramme will continue the work related to strengthening capacity and political commitment for ecosystem restoration in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will expand the geographic coverage and work with additional countries in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. It will also provide policy advice and capacity building for enabling further forest landscape restoration. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.19).

Figure 20.19  
**Performance measure: Commitments to ECCA30**  
 (Millions of hectares)



**Result 4: The forest products sector contribution in achieving SDG 12: Annual assessment of forest products market developments, their drivers and possible trends (new 2022 result)**

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

- 20.191 Sustainable Development Goal 12 aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Sustainably produced wood is a global commodity and widely used for a number of important key products. ECE member States account for about 40% of the global forest resources and more than 60% of wood used for products other than energy. Sustainably produced wood has the potential to substitute fossil, finite materials, such as concrete, steel, and petroleum-based products. The subprogramme contributes to achieving its objective by annually collecting data from member States on their production, trade and consumption of wood and wood-based products. The subprogramme further assesses the main drivers behind the market trends and discusses possible further developments.

*Lessons learned and planned change*

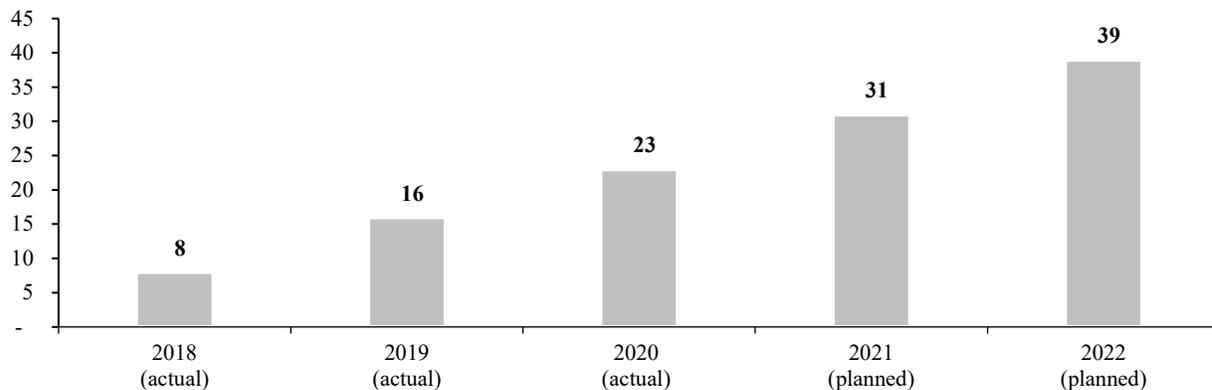
20.192 The lesson for the subprogramme was that the current assessment of information on forest products does not include all forest products and the full life cycle of wood-based products. The subprogramme was thus not in a position to provide member States with a full assessment of the extent to which the forest-based industries contribute to the achievement of SDG 12 by member States. The subprogramme will supplement the annually collected information to also cover additional products and flows, such as post-consumer wood, paper, paperboard and wooden packaging, wood energy, or engineered wood products. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will be in a better position to provide the ECE member States with more precise assessments of the role of the forest and forest products sector in terms of employment, volumes of wood harvested and traded, impacts on sustainable management of the forest resources and how forest products can further improve the sector’s role in contribution to achieving SDG 12 in general and the respective goals 12.2, 12.3 and 12.5 in particular in the future.

*Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

20.193 The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by a steadily increased number of wood-based commodities that are assessed regarding their production, trade and consumption (see figure 20.20).

Figure 20.20

**Performance measure: Number of wood-based commodities assessed regarding their production, trade and consumption**



**Legislative mandates**

20.194 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

*General Assembly resolutions*

<p>62/98</p> <p>67/200</p> <p>71/285</p>	<p>Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests</p> <p>International Day of Forests</p> <p>United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030</p>	<p>71/286</p> <p>73/284</p>	<p>United Nations forest instrument</p> <p>United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030)</p>
--	--	-----------------------------	---

*Economic and Social Council resolution*

2015/33	International arrangement on forests beyond 2015
2017/4	United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017–2020
2020/14	Outcome of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

## Deliverables

20.195 Table 20.18 below lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.18

### Subprogramme 7: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>
1. Documentation for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	12	10	18	10
2. Documentation for the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management	6	5	6	6
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>22</b>
3. Meetings of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry/European Forestry Commission	8	6	16	6
4. Meetings of the Bureau of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry	4	2	2	2
5. Meetings of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and of teams of specialists	14	6	14	14
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
6. Capacity-building events for policymakers, experts and relevant stakeholders from countries in the ECE region on topics related to the ECE/FAO integrated programme	10	9	15	15
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
7. Forest Products Annual Market Review	1	1	1	1
8. Publication on sustainable forest management and forest products	6	10	6	6
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> forest policy dialogues at the request of countries and support for forest policy issues.				
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> update and maintenance of ECE-region databases on forest resources; forest policies and institutions; forest products; production, consumption and trade, including prices; and wood energy for global access.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> organizations of activities and events celebrating the International Day of Forests; brochures and information material on different forest-related topics; presentations at round tables and discussions at international forest-related events.				

## Informal document No. 2020/56

---

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
<b>External and media relations:</b> annual set of press releases for the subprogramme; compilation and dissemination of the Forest Information Billboard newsletter providing relevant news from the forest sector in one place to approximately 4000 subscribers on a quarterly basis.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> update and maintenance of the website of the subprogramme; videos on forest-related topics.				

---

## **Subprogramme 8**

### **Housing, land management and population**

#### **Objective**

- 20.196 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen member State-owned programmes and policies promoting decent, adequate, affordable, energy-efficient and healthy housing for all, smart sustainable cities, sustainable urban development and land management, and to advance evidence-based population and social cohesion policies.

#### **Strategy**

##### **Planned activities**

- 20.197 The subprogramme comprises two components: (a) housing and land management; and (b) population.
- 20.198 The strategy of the subprogramme is based on the implementation of the core interlinked functions, namely, international policy dialogue, normative work and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in all areas of the subprogramme's work. Through its work, the subprogramme will contribute to the four ECE nexuses, as reflected in paragraph 20.5.
- 20.199 To contribute to the objective, the Housing and Land Management component of the subprogramme will continue to support member States, including national, regional and local governments and other key stakeholders, in the review of progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including the implementation of measures to accelerate the achievement of the Goals, and in exchanging experiences and best practices in these areas. The subprogramme will also support local governments in the assessment of achievement of the Goals at the local level through the application of the ECE/International Telecommunication Union (ITU) key performance indicators on smart sustainable cities. The subprogramme will provide technical assistance and disseminate best practices on the achievement of the housing, city and land-related Goals, especially Goal 11, and, to a lesser extent, Goals 3, 5, 7, 9 and 12. This will be done through the development of country profiles on urban development, housing and land management, smart sustainable cities profiles, pilot projects on innovative financial mechanisms for smart sustainable cities and thematic studies on affordable decent housing for all, sustainable urban development and land management, including informal settlements. Furthermore, it will support Governments in the development of their national and local evidence-based urban, housing policies and land administration. It will also organize a forum of mayors to discuss the challenges that local authorities/governments face in achieving sustainable urban development. Due consideration will be given to the integration of climate change measures into urban policies, strategies and planning. Furthermore, the subprogramme will facilitate the maintenance, management and refurbishment of existing housing stock in ECE member States.
- 20.200 To contribute to the objective, the Population component of the subprogramme will continue to facilitate cooperation between member States, regional agencies and other partners. It will support the review and follow-up activities to assess progress in implementing the ECE regional strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) at the national and regional levels. The strategy was adopted by ECE member States at the ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing held in Berlin on 11 September 2002 as a follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing. In an effort to have ageing mainstreamed into all policy fields, the strategy outlines commitments in 10 priority areas. The subprogramme will provide a platform for intergovernmental policy debate on matters related to mainstreaming ageing and will facilitate communication with a wider network of experts and NGOs. It will support evidence-based policymaking and monitoring of the implementation of the strategy by coordinating data collection on active ageing indicators and policy-oriented research on ageing and intergenerational and gender relations. The subprogramme will also support the

development of national capacities for policy formulation through its policy seminars/master classes and policy briefs that focus on specific policy challenges and possible policy solutions, showcasing good practices from across the region.

- 20.201 The Housing and Land Management component of the subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by strengthening capacity to design, implement and monitor urban economic resilience and recovery and rebuilding plans, including on innovative financing instruments and informal settlements to build back better and promote sustainable smart cities.
- 20.202 The Population component of the subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by assessing lessons learned and strengthening capacity to enhance preparedness and emergency response to mitigate the risks for older persons and uphold their rights and dignity during and beyond the pandemic. A special provision included in the ECE guidelines for national reporting on the fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA will provide a basis for summarising the lessons learned from COVID-19 and sharing successful policy responses in a 2022 Synthesis report on MIPAA/RIS the implementation

### **Expected results**

- 20.203 The above-mentioned work in the area of housing and land management is expected to result in: (i) improved national and local policies for housing affordability and accessibility for all, energy efficiency and climate-neutrality of buildings; (ii) increased support for the development of sustainable real estate markets that integrate the concepts of the 2030 Agenda and the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing; (iii) improved understanding by city authorities on priorities for socio-economic development based on the ECE/ITU Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities standard; and (iv) more efficient and resilient land administration systems. In the area of Population, the above-mentioned work will support member States' efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, in particular with regard to its core principle of leaving no one behind. The situation of current and future older persons will be improved thanks to the design and implementation of integrated policies for active and healthy ageing in which older persons are continuously recognized as an asset to a sustainable and inclusive society for all ages.
- 20.204 The planned support by the Housing and Land Management component on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in more effective local economic development policies and plans that address consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the Population component, the planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in a more prominent consideration of older persons in the mechanisms and operations of national and regional emergency responses and more nuanced policy approaches that ensure the rights and dignity of older persons.

### **Impact of COVID-19 on subprogramme delivery in 2020**

- 20.205 Owing to the impact of COVID-19 during 2020, for the subprogramme component on housing and land management, several in-person trainings and side events were postponed or cancelled. As a result, there was no possibility to discuss in-depth all the programmatic items and some of the decisions of the intergovernmental bodies had to be postponed to the next year. Other meetings and events were modified to allow for online participation. However, there were challenges related to the lack of access to reliable internet connection by some participants as well as reduced or not available interpretation services during the meetings. The change in meeting format to allow online participation also reduced the overall time for the meetings. As a consequence, there was less to no time to discuss national implementation of housing policies. The preparation of the Country Profile for Albania was delayed. Work was still ongoing but slower as anticipated, in particular as the mission planned for October 2020 was moved to spring 2021 due to travel restrictions.
- 20.206 At the same time, however the subprogramme component on housing and land management modified activities to support member States on issues related to COVID-19, within the overall scope of its

objectives, namely: a) the overall theme of the first Forum of Mayors was adapted to amplify local solutions and strengthen the resilience of cities to emergencies, including COVID-19; b) several webinars and online meetings were organized to replace physical meetings that were cancelled; c) several meetings were adapted to provide the option for participants to join online due to restrictions related to COVID-19. The latter includes, among others, the first Forum of Mayors and the eighty-first session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (Geneva, 6-8 October 2020). As a result, at least twice as many online meetings were organized, including Bureau meetings, thematic groups meetings, such as Steering Committee for Forum of Mayors, Steering Committee for smart sustainable cities, Steering Committee on Affordable Housing, as well as additional measures were implemented to increase communication through mailing list, social media, podcasts etc. with the objective to present the substance of topics to be discussed at the Committee session. The modified deliverables contributed to results in 2020, as specified under Result 1 below.

- 20.207 Owing to the impact of COVID-19 during 2020, the Population component of the subprogramme had to revert from a formal two-day (in-person) annual meeting of the Standing Working Group on Ageing to a formal one-day hybrid meeting complemented with the two informal on-line sessions without interpretation to official languages. This significantly shortened time for debating decisions and had an impact on participation of delegates from a number of ECE countries where English is less widely used.
- 20.208 At the same time, however, the Population component identified new/modified activities to support Member States on COVID-19 related issues, within the overall scope of its objectives, namely: (1) after an online consultation with member States in April (33 country responses), it was decided to dedicate the 2020 Policy seminar to Older persons in emergency situations: lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic; (2) in cooperation with UNFPA and WHO, initiated a pilot rapid assessment of COVID-19 impact on long-term care of older persons in Kazakhstan.

### **Liquidity constraints**

- 20.209 During 2020, liquidity constraints had an impact on the planned deliverables and activities of the Population component of subprogramme. This impact included a postponement of development of the Road Map on Mainstreaming Ageing in Kazakhstan including its publication. This was in part due to temporary freeze of regular-budget recruitment including through the Managed Reassignment Programme of young professionals and a freeze on consultancy financing foreseen for this purpose.

## **Result 1: The first Forum of Mayors 2020 - giving cities a voice at the international level (new result 2020)**

### **Programme performance in 2020**

- 20.210 While the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals are global in scope and ambition, implementation to achieve the SDG targets takes place locally. Cities and local governments are at the forefront of taking action to respond to multiple challenges at the same time such as climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, environmental degradation, social inequality, lack of adequate and affordable housing etc. The SDG framework recognizes the importance of cities and local authorities by dedicating one SDG to sustainable urban development. However, successful achievement of all 17 SDGs relies heavily on local action and ambition. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be more effective by also giving a voice to cities and including local stakeholders.
- 20.211 The Housing and Land Management component of the subprogramme acknowledged this fact and worked towards establishing a platform that gives Mayors a voice at the regional level and to share their experience, solutions and lessons learnt at the international level. Since 2018, the subprogramme has organized (i) a roundtable “Promoting Sustainable Cities and Communities”

(Geneva, 1 and 2 March 2018) as part of the ECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, which recognized the key role of local authorities in achieving the SDGs; and (ii) a “Day of Cities” (Geneva, 8 April 2019) on how to create smart sustainable cities and improve the quality of life of people, efficiency of urban operations, services and competitiveness. The high-level segment of the ECE sixty-eighth Commission session (April 2019) requested the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management to explore “the possibility of establishing a forum of Mayors” (see E/2019/37; E/ECE/1488 paragraph 38). The subprogramme facilitated this process which led to the decision of the ECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management at its 80th session (October 2019) to organize the Forum of Mayors on the first day of the three-day Committee session in 2020 and 2021 and to assess the meeting format in 2022. Following the spread of COVID-19, the overall theme of the Forum of Mayors 2020 was adapted to ‘City Action for a Resilient Future: Strengthening Local Government Preparedness and Response to Emergencies and the Impact of Disasters and Climate Change’ and the format of the Forum was changed to allow for online participation. The event took place on 6 October 2020 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, and virtually with interpretation. It was webcasted live on UN Web TV. The Forum brought together online and in-person 40 Mayors and Vice-Mayors from the 36 countries in the ECE region. Over 1,000 people participated in the Forum in-person as well as remotely from over 65 countries. Mayors exchanged innovative ideas and efforts to address the COVID-19 emergency and, simultaneously, combat climate change and move towards achieving the SDGs. They highlighted the need for enhanced cooperation across all levels of governments to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The first Forum of Mayors created media interest that included 33 media articles recorded so far, in 9 languages, reaching an estimated 12.5 million. It captured around 150 mentions on social media, reaching over 480,000 people.

*Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

- 20.212 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the adoption of a Declaration by the Forum of Mayors providing a blueprint for concrete steps local authorities will take in the coming months and years to realize their cities’ potential for greater sustainability. In addition, an online portal was established to continue to facilitate an exchange of city-level solutions to promote resilience after the Forum (see table 20.19).

Table 20.19

**Performance measure**

2018	2019	2020
The ECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development agreed on the need to stronger engage cities and local authorities in achieving the SDGs.	Day of Cities organized with Mayors and Deputy-Mayors on the theme of sustainable cities.	First Forum of Mayors organized to share experience on City Action for a Resilient Future: Strengthening Local Government Preparedness and Response to Emergencies and the Impact of Disasters and Climate Change. Declaration adopted by the Forum which provides a blueprint for concrete steps local authorities will take in the coming months and years to realize their cities’ potential for greater sustainability.

## Result 2: regional observatory on urban-related Sustainable Development Goals (reflected in programme plan for 2020 –A/74/6 (Sect. 20))

### Programme performance in 2020

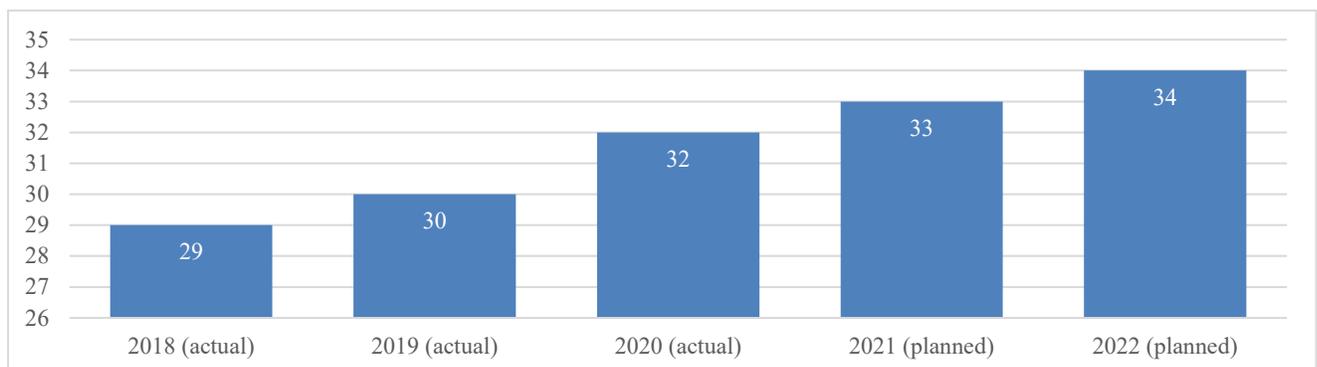
- 20.213 The Housing and Land Management component of the subprogramme actively supported the exchange of experiences and building the capacities of national and local governments on the formulation and implementation of evidence-based housing and urban development policies. Following the launch of the “Guidelines on evidence-based policies and decision-making for sustainable housing and urban development” at the eightieth session of the Committee in October 2019, implementation of the Guidelines started throughout the organization of national capacity-building workshops. In 2020, the subprogramme prepared Smart Sustainable City Profile for the cities of Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan; Rana, Norway; and Trondheim, Norway to promote evidence based housing and urban development policies at city level. The subprogramme has also started preparations to conduct a second Country Profile on the housing and land management for Albania.
- 20.214 The above-mentioned work contributed to 32 ECE member States that apply ECE guidelines on urban development, housing and land management at the national and local levels, which met the planned target of 32 countries applying the guidelines, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

### Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 20.215 The Housing and Land Management component of the subprogramme will continue the work related to a Regional observatory on urban-related Sustainable Development Goals, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will assist Governments in strengthening their capacity to develop evidence-based policies in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by promoting the application of ECE guidelines on urban development, sustainable smart cities, housing and land management through an online platform with e-learning materials, and regional and national capacity building events, including trainings on sustainable real estate markets. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 20.21).

Figure 20.21

**Performance measure: number of Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States that apply ECE guidelines on urban development, housing and land management at the national and local levels**



**Result 3: Countries launch new guidelines on how to mainstream ageing to achieve a society for all ages (reflected in programme plan for 2021 – A/75/6 (Sect.20))**

**Programme performance in 2020**

- 20.216 The Population component of subprogramme has completed a stocktaking exercise on mainstreaming policies, tools and practice developed by ECE member States – 23 country notes received by April 2020 – and facilitated the drafting process of the new guidelines on mainstreaming ageing under the leadership of the task force on Ageing. In 2020, the subprogramme also led the two-months consultations with the national focal points on ageing and experts in the field on the draft guidelines and supported the revision of the draft guidelines (constructive comments and suggestions received from 22 reviewers were taken into account to the extent possible).
- 20.217 The above-mentioned work contributed to finalization of the guidelines on mainstreaming ageing, which met the planned target of “Member States are expected to review and adopt guidelines on mainstreaming ageing to benefit policymakers across the region”, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2021.

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

- 20.218 The subprogramme will continue the work related to “countries launch new guidelines on how to mainstream ageing to achieve a society for all ages”, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will work on an on-line training programme for policymakers, technical experts, and other stakeholders that would support application of the guidelines in their local context. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 20.20).

Table 20.20  
**Performance measure**

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Member States decide to develop guidelines and to establish a task force to lead this work	The task force commences its work on developing guidelines and pilots a stocktaking exercise on mainstreaming practices in several countries	Finalization of the guidelines on mainstreaming ageing	Member States are expected to launch the implementation of guidelines and support the development of a toolkit	A guidelines-based online training programme on mainstreaming ageing is expected to be developed and run targeting policymakers, technical experts and other stakeholders

**Result 4: MIPAA/RIS beyond 2022 – reaching a consensus on the next five-year goals and actions for healthy and active ageing in a sustainable world (new 2022 result)**

**Proposed programme plan for 2022**

- 20.219 The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, requested a systematic review of its implementation as being essential for the Plan’s success in improving the quality of life of older persons. The ECE Regional

Implementation Strategy (RIS) for MIPAA, adopted by the ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Berlin in 2002, reasserted this requirement. The first three five-year cycles of review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS implementation were concluded by ECE Ministerial Conferences in 2007 (León, Spain), 2012 (Vienna, Austria) and 2017 (Lisbon, Portugal) and the adoption of the respective Ministerial Declarations. They involved a participatory “bottom-up” element - engaging civil society and older persons themselves – and generated knowledge for policymakers, supported action and promoted public awareness.

20.220 The fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS in the region will span throughout 2022. Following the reviews at the national level, the subprogramme will consolidate and analyse information in the Synthesis report and coordinate consultations among ECE member States on the next five-year goals and actions for healthy and active ageing across the region. The fourth regional review will culminate with the ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in 2022 and adoption of the Ministerial Declaration. The subprogramme will facilitate the preparation of a consensus draft of declaration expected to reflect on lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic and align with the 2030 Agenda and World Health Organization Decade on Healthy Ageing (2021-2030).

*Lessons learned and planned change*

20.221 The lesson for the subprogramme was that there was a common denominator linking the national reports for the fourth review and appraisal and activities addressing the Covid-19 impact on older men and women since spring 2020. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will embed the principles of upholding the fundamental rights and dignity of older persons, and the lessons learned from COVID-19 for preparedness, relief and recovery of emergency situations as they relate to older persons.

*Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure*

20.222 The above-mentioned work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by a 2022 Ministerial Conference on Ageing adopting by acclamation its outcome document outlining the goals and main actions for healthy and active ageing in 2023 (see table 20.21).

Table 20.21  
Performance measure:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Member States agreed on the work programme of the ECE Working Group on Ageing for 2018-2022, the fourth cycle of MIPAA/RIS. The programme envisages the preparation of the MIPAA/RIS+20 report.	Member States decided on a tentative timeline for the 4 <sup>th</sup> review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS. The ECE Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA) tasks its Bureau with development of guidelines for national reports.	The SWGA Bureau issues the guidelines for national reports and launches the 4 <sup>th</sup> review and appraisal exercise in the region.  A concept note for 2022 Ministerial Conference on Ageing is discussed at the annual SWGA meeting.	Member States hold national review and appraisal exercises and submit their national reports to the ECE secretariat.  The SWGA Bureau prepare the first draft of the ministerial declaration for consultation with the member States	Member States hold intergovernmental consultations on a draft ministerial declaration to be tabled at the Conference.  A 2022 Ministerial Conference on Ageing to adopt by acclamation its outcome document outlining the goals and main actions for healthy and active

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

ageing in 2023-2027.

## Legislative mandates

20.223 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

### *General Assembly resolutions*

65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014	71/256 72/144	New Urban Agenda Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
70/107	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development	72/226	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
71/235	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	74/125	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

### *Economic and Social Council resolutions*

2016/25	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development	2020/8	Modalities for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
2018/6	Third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002		

### *Economic and Social Council decision*

2014/239	Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda for its forty-eighth session (Commission on Population and Development resolution 2014/1,		Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development)
----------	--	--	--

### *Economic Commission for Europe decisions*

ECE/AC.23/2002/2/Rev.6	Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002		Land Management in the ECE region for the period 201401502020 (ECE/HBP/2013/3)
ECE/AC.30/2007/2	Report of the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing: "A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities"	B (66)	Endorsement of the Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing
ECE/AC.30/2012/3	2012 Vienna Ministerial declaration: "Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing"	ECE/HBP/190	Report of the Committee on Housing and Land Management on its seventy-eighth session (Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development)
ECE/HBP/173	Report of the Committee on Housing and Land Management on its seventy-fourth session, which adopted the Strategy for Sustainable Housing and	ECE/AC.30/2017/2/Rev.1	Revised report of the Ministerial Conference on Ageing: "A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the

Potential of Living Longer” (2017  
Lisbon ministerial declaration)

## Deliverables

20.224 Table 20.22 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 20.22

### Subprogramme 8: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>
1. Documentation for the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management	10	15	12	10
2. Documentation for the Working Party on Land Administration	–	–	7	–
3. Documentation for the Standing Working Group on Ageing	5	5	5	4
4. Documentation for the Ministerial Conference on Ageing	–	–	–	2
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>
5. Meetings of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management and its Bureau	14	14	12	14
6. Meetings of the Working Party on Land Administration and its Bureau	8	4	10	6
7. Meetings of the Standing Working Group on Ageing	7	7	7	7
8. Ministerial Conference on Ageing	–	–	–	4
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>2</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
7. Projects on country profiles on housing, land administration and spatial planning	2	–	1	1
8. Road map for mainstreaming ageing project for a specific country	–	–	1	–
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
9. Workshops, seminars and training courses for policymakers and/or experts in the ECE region on housing and land administration (including real estate) and spatial planning	4	7	4	4
10. Workshops and policy seminars on population ageing issues for policymakers, experts, practitioners and other stakeholders in countries of the ECE region	1	1	2	1
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
11. Publications on housing and land management	2	1	3	4
12. Publications on population	3	3	4	2
13. People-Smart Sustainable Cities (ECE nexuses publication)	–	1	–	–
<b>2 Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
14. Technical guidelines on housing and land management	1	1	2	1
15. Guidelines on mainstreaming ageing	–	–	1	–
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> generations and gender programme – support for the council of partners (meeting for 25 country teams); country microdata submission and researchers’ access agreements; advisory services for policymakers, in preparation for and follow-up to the country profiles on housing, land administration and spatial planning (2); advisory				

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
<p>services for government officials and other stakeholders, to develop national capacities in designing and implementing ageing-related policies and programmes (1).</p> <p><b>Fact-finding, monitoring and investigation missions:</b> fact-finding missions for policymakers in preparation for and follow-up to the country profiles on housing, land administration and spatial planning (2); fact-finding missions for government officials and other stakeholders, to develop national capacities in designing and implementing ageing-related policies and programmes (1).</p> <p><b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> update and maintenance of the active ageing indicators data set for regional access.</p> <p><b>D. Communication deliverables</b></p> <p><b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> booklet/fact sheets of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management and the Working Party on Land Administration (1); booklet of the Standing Working Group on Ageing (1) and ageing-related side events for various stakeholders.</p> <p><b>External and media relations:</b> annual sets of press releases related to housing, land management and population activities for regional access.</p> <p><b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> update and maintenance of the websites related to housing, land management and population activities for global and regional access; Active Ageing Index wiki (1).</p>				