

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Bureau meeting
Geneva, 20 October 2009
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Sixteenth session
Geneva, 20 – 23 October 2009
Item 6(b) of the provisional agenda

Information Paper No. 4
13 October 2009

PROGRAMME OF WORK

REPORTING ON PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE¹

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This information paper replaces the originally forecasted document ECE/CEP/2009/7. The paper provides an evaluation of the performance of the environment subprogramme 2008-2009, based on the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement in Annex I.

It also proposes the expected accomplishments and related indicators for the purpose of the next biennial evaluation 2010-2011.

The paper is submitted to the Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy for its review and agreement. Subsequently, the Committee is invited to take note of the paper and endorse the Bureau's decision.

In addition, the paper includes the subprogramme's draft 2012–2013 strategic framework drawn up in the context of the United Nations programme budget preparations. The Bureau and the Committee are invited to take note of the strategic framework.

More general background information on the programme performance reporting procedures and mechanisms is contained in the Committee's document considered at its fifteenth session in April 2008 (ECE/CEP/2008/5).

I. EVALUATION OF PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE 2008–2009

1. For the biennium 2008-2009, the Committee agreed at its fifteenth session in 2008 with the draft expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for each cluster of activities. To facilitate the Committee's work, the Bureau of the Committee is invited to evaluate the fulfilment of the expected accomplishments.

2. The expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for the clusters of activities for the 2008–2009 biennial performance evaluation, as agreed by the Committee, are presented in annex I. The detailed reports on the fulfilment of the expected accomplishments per each cluster of activity are contained in chapter II below. As programme performance could only be taken into account until 30 September 2009, some slight modifications might become necessary by the end of the year. In this case the Bureau would be consulted on the final version in January 2010.

¹ This paper was not formally edited.

3. The Bureau is invited to discuss and agree with the evaluation of the fulfilment of the expected accomplishments for the 2008–2009 biennial performance evaluations.

II. ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS 2008-2009

1. Environmental Performance Reviews:

Improved environmental performance in countries with economies in transition

4. The Environmental Performance Reviews (EPR) Programme currently carries out its second cycle of reviews. The programme assesses and monitors progress in environmental management in the UNECE countries in transition. It measures progress since the first review and examines in-depth the reviewed country's environmental policy framework, the financing for environmental protection and the integration of environmental concerns into sectoral activities. Second reviews also include an assessment of the implementation of recommendations in the first review, in order to help them further improve their environmental management and to encourage convergence between the environmental practices throughout the UNECE region.

5. The second EPRs of the three countries reviewed during the biennium 2008-2009, i.e. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, have shown that all of them have made progress since their first reviews, which were undertaken in the period 2000-2001. It has been estimated that the three countries have implemented more than half of the recommendations addressed to them, with progress mostly seen in the elaboration of strategies and legislation. This record of implementation is an important achievement, considering that between 35 and 40 recommendations were respectively addressed to each of the three countries to help them improve their environmental practices.

6. To promote the EPR in the reviewed country, an event to mark the launching of the country's review is usually organized in the country. In October 2008, the second EPR of Kazakhstan report was launched with the following events: a round table at the national Senate; a presentation at the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe (EAP Task Force) session; and a workshop for non-governmental organizations and the business community organized in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The first two events were held in Astana, and the third one in Almaty. The second EPR of Kyrgyzstan report will be launched in November 2009 with a round table with high level representatives, including the Kyrgyz Prime Minister.

7. Conclusions: Remaining critical bottlenecks. The second cycle of EPR reviews has so far shown that clear improvements have occurred in all three reviewed countries. However, despite these improvements, key barriers to progress persist. Additionally, not all reviewed countries have made progress at the same pace. Differences are mainly attributable to different starting points and transition paths, and also to the contribution of the international community and the level of integration of external good practices. The most critical obstacles, as identified through the EPR Programme, are the lack of political support for environmental goals, the ineffectiveness of environmental institutions (in particular with regard to implementation and enforcement), the inability of governments to mobilize adequate financing even for clearly established environmental priorities, the still weak environmental policy integration in economic sectors, and the common weakness to establish and use monitoring to measure progress and set new targets.

2. Follow up to the Ministerial Conference Environment for Europe: Successful reform of the “Environment for Europe” process

8. At the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (EfE) that took place in Belgrade from 10 to 12 October 2007, the ministers agreed that the EfE process, initiated in 1991, needed to be reformed. They committed themselves to continuing a focused and needs-based EfE process concentrated

on results-based, action-oriented activities that improve the environment and advance sustainable development in the region and to actively seeking partnerships with civil society, including the private sector. The purpose of the reform was to strengthen its effectiveness and to ensure that it remained appropriate for, and fully aligned with, the growing needs of the UNECE region and the evolving political and economic landscape, as well as the environmental priorities of the region.

9. Following up on the request made by ministers, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy had developed, in consultation with “Environment for Europe” partners, a reform plan for the process. The plan had been developed through a series of dedicated meetings of the Committee during 2008 and 2009. At its special session (Geneva, 27–29 January 2009), the Committee had finalized and approved a reform plan for the “Environment for Europe” process. Subsequently, the reform plan was endorsed by the Economic Commission for Europe at its sixty-third session (Geneva, 30 March–1 April 2009).

10. According to the adopted reform plan, the EfE process would continue to serve as a mechanism: (a) to improve the environment throughout the region; (b) to enhance the implementation of national environmental policies; (c) to support convergence of environmental policies and approaches and the prioritization of environmental objectives; (d) to encourage the participation of civil society; and (e) to promote broad horizontal environmental cooperation. The reform plan is contained in document ECE/CEP/S/152, paragraph 7 and annex I, and is available online (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/EfEreform/DocumentsReformEfE.htm>).

11. Some of the new features contained in the plan were as follows:

- (a) The Committee on Environmental Policy would act as the convening body for the preparatory process;
- (b) Not later than 18 months before the Ministerial Conference, the Committee would decide on not more than two themes and discuss the outline of the Conference agenda;
- (c) Only one official document per selected theme would be prepared;
- (d) Discussions would be arranged in an interactive manner, e.g. plenary sessions, round tables and moderated panel discussions;
- (e) A session of environmental NGOs and ministers and a session of private sector representatives and ministers would be organized among the Conference’s main clusters;
- (f) The Conference’s outcomes might include:
 - (i) Statements, initiatives, agreements, pledges;
 - (ii) An agreed outcome of two pages;
 - (iii) Policy tools;
 - (iv) Assessment reports;
- (g) A mid-term review between two Ministerial Conferences would assess progress of the implementation of the Conference outcomes and provide renewed impetus to the process.

12. The Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference to be held in Astana in 2011 will be organized in accordance with the Reform Plan.

**3. Follow up to World Summit on Sustainable Development:
Successful review of progress in the implementation of the WSSD outcomes and Agenda 21
within the biennial CSD implementation cycle**

13. The UNECE Third Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development (RIM-3) was held on 28 and 29 January 2008 in Geneva. The meeting was well attended - 220 delegates participated in the meeting, representing Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations

(NGOs) and other major groups. It should be noted that among the participants were: 41 UNECE member States; 7 organizations of the United Nations system, and 3 other intergovernmental and financial organizations; as well as 42 NGOs and private sector organizations.

14. In accordance with the Commission on Sustainable Development's multi-year programme of work, the meeting assessed the region's progress in implementing sustainable development commitments in the following thematic clusters: agriculture, rural development, land management, drought, desertification and Africa. RIM-3 also specifically discussed linkages between the thematic priorities as well as cross-cutting issues.

15. As a basis for the discussions, the ECE secretariat had prepared two background documents (ECE/AC.25/2008/3 and ECE/AC.25/2008/4). Contributions were made by various partners in and outside the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the World Meteorological Organization and the Africa Partnership Forum Support Unit of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

16. The results of the discussions are captured in the Chair's Summary prepared as the contribution from the UNECE region to the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held from 5 to 16 May 2008 in New York.

4. Environmental monitoring: Strengthened capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment in Eastern Europe Caucasus and Central Asia

17. Accomplishments: The Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, at its sessions in 2008 and 2009: (a) discussed the lessons learned from data collection for the 4th Pan-European assessment report; (b) considered a proposal of the European Environment Agency on the preparation of the assessment report for the next Efe Conference; (c) discussed implementation by Belarus, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine of the recommendations on environmental monitoring and assessment in the second EPRs of those countries, (d) prepared guidelines for developing national strategies to use air quality monitoring as an environmental policy tool; (e) discussed ways and means to promote corporate environmental reporting and (e) organized round tables on latest developments in environmental monitoring and assessment. The Intersectoral Task Force on Environmental Indicators, jointly established in 2009 by the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians, started training monitoring experts and statisticians in indicator production.

18. Information reported by countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to the Working Group and the Joint Task Force demonstrate progress achieved in many of these countries in extending and refurbishing their monitoring networks and in producing indicators and indicator-based assessment reports following the UNECE Guidelines on the Application of Environmental Indicators.

19. Challenges and lessons learned: Further strengthening of observation and reporting capacities in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia requires continuous pressure by the international community on countries concerned to link monitoring with environmental policy-making, to extend monitoring networks, to transit to automated measurements, to cover pollutants that are most hazardous for human health and to publish regularly easy-to-read indicator-based assessment reports that are accessible to the public. These efforts should be supported by the provision of expert advice, training and an extensive exchange of good practices using the Working Group and the Joint Task Force as platforms for dialogue and assistance. Donor support is a crucial condition for success. Extrabudgetary funds are necessary to support expert travel, to obtain consultancies and to cover costs of training workshops.

20. Conclusions/recommendation: Should the required amount of extrabudgetary funds be not forthcoming, the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators will not be able to meet at its 2nd meeting in 2010. Neither the activity on strengthening environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises be implemented.

5. Education for sustainable development:

Enhanced integration of key themes of sustainable development in national education programmes at all levels

21. Accomplishment account: The UNECE Strategy for ESD is currently in the 2nd phase of its implementation. Considerable progress has been achieved since the beginning of the phase in 2007. In many countries, Governments had established the necessary policies and institutional arrangements and mechanisms to implement the Strategy. Implementation of the initial measures (e.g. translating the Strategy into the official national languages and establishing national focal points and consultative mechanisms) had been completed in most countries. 23 member States reported to have either developed national ESD strategies (4), or have taken steps to introduce ESD into their policy and legislative documents, such as national SD strategies (6); many have started drafting and some are already implementing national action plans for ESD (13). Some of these countries were in the process of assessing their national strategies and national plans, with a view to revising them where needed.

22. National-level coordination, awareness-raising and capacity-building are addressed through ESD meetings, workshops, conferences (targeting not only educators and administrators of educational institutions but also policymakers and decision makers) and a variety of other events, as well as through the mass media promoting and supporting ESD. Significant amount of ESD informational and teaching materials is being developed to support the education sector's efforts to integrate ESD into the curriculum.

23. Conclusions and remaining challenges: ESD Strategy implementation is in line with the provisions for phase II, including at the national level through the development of ESD-related policies, materials and tools. The focus in many countries has to now shift to putting these policies and tools into practice. Countries that do not yet have in place national strategies or action plans for ESD should proceed with their development and implementation as soon as possible. In some countries, specific budgets were being allocated for ESD activities. However, in a number of countries (mostly those with economies in transition) the lack of resources remains a challenge. Another challenge hindering good progress is the lack of efficient coordination between the numerous actors involved. In many countries, developing competences in ESD among educators remains a persistent bottleneck that has to be addressed at regional and national level.

6. Transport, health and environment:

Enhanced integration between transport health and environment

24. The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), which is administered jointly by the UNECE and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, was successfully re-launched in January 2009 with the Third High-level Meeting, hosted by the Netherlands in which 32 governments agreed the Amsterdam Declaration and its four priority goals. The High-level Meeting gave a renewed political impetus to THE PEP, carved out a new work plan (2009-2014), including 7 concrete projects with new commitments of funds to THE PEP Trust Fund. Three implementation mechanisms were devised to carry out THE PEP work plan and to facilitate in particular EECCA and South East European ECE and WHO/Europe countries in attaining the Amsterdam Goals: THE PEP Staffete (a relay race to pass the baton of good practice across the region); National Health, Environment, Transport Action Plans (NTHEAPs) and THE PEP Partnership. A capacity-building workshop on safe and healthy cycling and walking in urban areas was held in Pruhonice (Prague) Czech

Republic in September 2009 to kick-off of THE PEP staffete and produced action points on cycling and walking for policymakers, industry and civil society. The modalities of the three implementation mechanisms, THE PEP projects and the use of THE PEP Steering Committee as a forum for in-depth discussion on policy issues across the three sectors and the attainment of the Amsterdam Goals will be formulated during the seventh session of THE PEP Steering Committee meeting in October 2009.

7. Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution: Strengthened implementation of the air pollution convention

25. In the biennium 2008-2009, the Convention and its subsidiary bodies undertook to entirely revise the strategic objectives and vision under the Convention. In 2009, two subsidiary bodies adopted their respective strategies for the ten years to come. These are related to monitoring and modelling air pollution and to the research on the effects of pollutants. The Executive Bodies also started to work on a long-term strategy for the Convention which will take account on the progress made in the region to combat air pollution and of the new challenges ahead of the Convention, such as the problem of reactive nitrogen, the links with climate change, the strengthening of the Protocol implementation in EECCA and SEE countries and assistance activities to these countries, the cooperation with other international instruments in the same field of activities.

26. In 2008, the strengthening and renegotiations of three protocols (POPs, heavy metals and Gothenburg) has also be undertaken. The negotiations of the POPs protocol will be concluded by 2009, and negotiations of the other two protocols will be pursued on the next biennium. The new POPs protocol contains a series of new POPs to be regulated, and will also contain flexible mechanisms to facilitate the participation of EECCA and SEE countries in progressively complying with the new obligations.

27. In 2007, the Executive Body revised its Action Plan for EECCA and SEE countries aiming at raising the political Profile of the Convention activities in the region, encouraging the ratification of the 8 protocols under the Convention in particular the most recent three, increasing cooperation and exchange of information through expanding the modelling and monitoring activities and supporting the involvement of EECCA and SEE in the activities under the Convention. In 2008-2009, two workshops were organized to promote the ratification of three protocols (Yerevan, 2008; St Petersburg, 2009), and two consultations organized with SEE countries going more in depth into practicalities regarding the preparations to ratifications. Three projects were handled through the secretariat (as project manager) for preparing countries to ratify protocols; these projects are involving 4 EECCA countries and 5 SEE countries.

8. Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters: Strengthened implementation of the Aarhus convention

28. Implementation of the Aarhus Convention has been strengthened through various efforts of the Parties to the Convention and through capacity-building activities and meeting facilitation by the secretariat. The progressive ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers has led to its entry into force on 8 October 2009. The number of countries submitting National Implementation Reports to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention increased from 30 in the 2005 reporting cycle to 41 in the 2008 reporting cycle. The submitted reports indicated that progress had been made in a number of key areas.

29. Several EECCA countries reported progress in creating a general legislative framework for the implementation of the Convention, with most advances made in implementing the access to information provisions (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan). Reports indicated that most EECCA countries improved collection and dissemination of environmental information by establishing and operating different training and information centres and increasing the use of electronic tools as well as environmental awareness and educational activities.

30. The trend among EU countries and Norway has been to develop implementing legislation before ratifying the Convention. The implementation reports from this region indicated that the level of implementation appears to be quite advanced with regard to access to information and to public participation in decision-making under article 6, but to a lesser degree on public participation under articles 7 and 8. A major driving force for implementation in the EU countries that have become Parties during the reporting cycle has been the transposition of Community legislation, adopted since 2003 in the context of the ratification by the European Community. Parties from the EU region reported on the efforts to transpose the relevant directives and to amend their legislation to bring it into conformity with the Convention.

31. Parties from South East Europe (SEE) have also taken measures to bring their legislation into compliance with the Convention and at the same time to harmonize it with the relevant EU directives. These efforts led to a progress in the legislative framework development and in the implementation of the access to information provisions. However, the practical application of the public participation provisions reportedly is more problematic due to the lack of clear rules, detailed procedures and implementing practices. The implementation of the access to justice provisions is the least developed in these countries.

32. The lack of progress in implementation of the public participation provisions has led to the establishment of an Expert Group on Public Participation, which has been mandated to address the issue by exchanging information and collecting good practices, as well as by advising on the terms of reference for a Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making. The implementation of the access to justice provisions continues to be addressed by the Task Force on Access to Justice.

9. Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context: Strengthened implementation of the environmental impact assessment convention

33. The fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, held in Bucharest in May 2008, recognized that subregional cooperation promotes the regular exchange of information within the subregion and improves the practical application of the Convention, and proposed that activities on subregional cooperation should be included in the workplan adopted in the same session. As a result, countries have continued to meet in workshops on subregional cooperation and for the development of pilot implementation projects: 23 countries in total, of which 20 are Parties. The number of countries was slightly below the target (24) and this may be attributed in part to the limited availability of funds to finance activities in the adopted workplan. Nonetheless, a further indicator of strengthened subregional cooperation was the adoption and signing in Bucharest, during the session of the Meeting of the Parties, of a multilateral agreement among the countries of South-Eastern Europe for implementation of the Convention. Seven countries signed the agreement, though only one (Bulgaria) has since approved its signature.

34. The Meeting of the Parties, in its fourth session, also welcomed the reports by countries on their implementation of the Convention and then adopted the review of implementation based on the reports. Thirty-eight of the 42 Parties to the Convention at that time submitted implementation reports, far exceeding the target number (29). The Parties that did not report were: Albania, which failed to report in time for the session, but submitted a report in February 2009; Belarus, which had become a Party after the start of the period being reported upon (2003-2005); Serbia, which had become a Party after the end of the period being reported upon; and the European Community, which, being a regional economic integration organization rather than a State, has a different status and therefore felt it inappropriate to send in an implementation report. The total represented a dramatic improvement in reporting by Parties, reflecting in part the adoption in 2004 of the second amendment to the Convention (not yet in force) which will make reporting mandatory. With the number of Parties to the Convention continuing slowly to grow, this measure of performance is expected to continue to increase. A further encouragement for Parties to report in the future on their implementation of the Convention is the decision by the Meeting of the Parties that a failure to report on implementation might be a compliance matter to be considered by the Convention's Implementation Committee.

35. Finally, many countries in the region have participated in training courses on strategic environmental assessment (SEA), generally with reference to the Convention's Protocol on SEA. The current workplan includes a subregional training workshop for countries of South-Eastern Europe, organized by UNDP and held in 2008. Further training was held within the framework of a subregional initiative on SEA supported by UNECE and UNDP, with participation from Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, as well as some national training. The total number of countries involved to date (11) fell short of the target (12), and this may be attributed in part to the delayed entry into force of the Protocol. Nonetheless, other organizations have provided relevant SEA training in the Caucasus; training in Central Asia, foreseen in the current workplan, is to be arranged for late 2009 or early 2010.

36. It is suggested that the indicators of achievement corresponding to the above be revised in the next reporting cycle to be clearer and more objectively measurable (see annex II).

10. Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes: Strengthened implementation of the water convention

37. In the past year, work under the Water Convention focused on the finalization of product and activities in the programme of work for 2007-2009 in view of the fifth session of the meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 10-12 November 2009). Those included:

38. Guide to Implementing the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/L.2). The Guide provides legal and technical explanations for the Convention's implementation. It was broadly welcomed and supported by numerous Parties as it responds to a concrete need of Parties and countries interested in accession. The Guide has already been used in several occasions and is expected to become an important strategic document to support the future Convention's implementation in the UNECE region and beyond.

39. Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change (ECE/MP.WAT/30). The Guidance provides a framework to develop step-by-step an adaptation strategy. It aims to support decision makers from the local to the transboundary level by offering advice on the challenges caused by climate change to water management and water-related activities and thereby to develop adaptation strategies. The Guidance puts special emphasis on the specific problems and requirements of transboundary basins and on health aspects. It is the first product jointly developed under the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health. Active participation in its preparation by Parties, non-Parties and international partners underlines its timeliness and usefulness. Its preparation, however, had to rely on the very limited experience available on climate change adaptation, even less in the transboundary context. This further underscores the need for the region to strengthen its capacity for climate change adaptation, in particular in the transboundary context, building on the Guidance. The proposed programme of pilot projects in the 2010–2012 workplan aims to support such progress.

40. Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters. The first Assessment has proven to be a central product for the Convention from many perspectives, above all, it provides a strong foundation for all other activities. Compared to the first Assessment, the second edition to be prepared for the Astana Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" will not only fill the information gaps but also dwell on a number of thematic issues such as institutional and legal aspects of cooperation, climate change impacts and adaptation, social and economic aspects, and biodiversity issues. A Steering Group with the involvement of representatives of countries and of partner international organizations has been established. Work has started with the assessment of transboundary waters in South-Eastern Europe (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/8, ECE/MP.WAT/2009/9, ECE/MP.WAT/2009/10, ECE/MP.WAT/2009/11) and will continue with the Caucasus.

41. Transboundary water cooperation in Central Asia. In recent years, Central Asia has become an important focus of work under the Convention and this will be further strengthened in cooperation with the German Government. For more information see Information Paper No.3.

42. National Policy Dialogues. Despite their rather short tenure and limited resources, the National Policy Dialogues, part of the European Union (EU) Water Initiative and supported mainly by the European Commission, have produced solid, politically successful outputs, contributing to the Convention's implementation. This is also demonstrated by the increasing number of Parties that provide in-kind and/or financial support (e.g. Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Romania and Switzerland), and by the interest of countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) in joining the programme. Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine currently participate in the Dialogues. The Dialogues have attracted the interest of Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkmenistan; the process will start in these countries in 2010 (see ECE/MP.WAT/2009/6).

For more information see: Report on the implementation of the workplan for the period 2007–2009, including an overview of contributions and expenditures (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/2).

Protocol on Water and Health

43. The past year has seen an increase in the number of Parties to the Protocol (three countries ratified the Protocol since the beginning of 2009 and others have indicated their interest and readiness to ratify the Protocol in the near future). A challenge is to foster ratification in countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe which would most benefit from the Protocol.

44. Technical and strategic guidance for implementation. Work under the Protocol has focused on the development of guidance documents to support Parties in their main obligations, namely setting target and target dates and reporting on progress, as well as establishing systems for the surveillance of water related diseases. Moreover, to address some of the challenges that climate change will present to the implementation of the Protocol, a guidance document on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events is also being developed.

45. Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism and assistance to national implementation. The Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism, the Protocol mechanism to promote mutual assistance, has fostered the development of projects to assist countries with economies in transition. Currently Norway is assisting Ukraine. and Switzerland the Republic of Moldova (with the support of UNECE) to develop integrated strategies on water, environment and health (targets and target dates). Armenia and Kyrgyzstan have also presented project proposals to the mechanism which are currently being considered by Finland and Norway.

46. Challenges ahead. Recent activities under the Protocol have shown that setting targets and target dates in the areas of water, environment and health (as requested by the art.6 of the Protocol), constitute a challenge for the majority Parties, in particular as it requires a close coordination and cooperation between national authorities – especially environment and health authorities.

47. The pilot reporting exercise organized to inform the second session of the Meeting of the Parties (October–November 2010) will certainly require increased coordination and efforts in all Parties.

11. Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents: Strengthened implementation of the industrial accidents convention

48. The Conference of the Parties to the IA Convention, having recognized the need to support the implementation of the Convention in EECCA and SEE countries, adopted and launched at its third meeting in 2004 an Assistance Programme with the aim to enhance the efforts of these countries in strengthening the implementation of the Convention. Since 2007, after a preparatory phase of the Programme has been successfully accomplished by most of the EECCA and SEE countries, they have been provided with a number of concrete capacity building activities to ensure further progress in implementing the key provisions of the Conventions.

49. For improving the identification of hazardous activities, a training session was organized in 2008 for 9 countries from the EECCA and SEE region. It is expected that at least 7 of these countries would prove, when reporting on the implementation of the Convention for the years 2008-2009 (the reports are to be submitted to the secretariat in the first quarter of 2010), that they achieved further progress with identification of hazardous activities by improving any of the mechanism for either collection, analysis or validation of data on hazardous activities.

50. For strengthening the prevention, there was a January 2009 training session organized which covered the issues of integrated approaches to major hazard prevention. It was attended by 9 EECCA and SEE countries. Also in this case it is expected that at least 7 countries that participated to the training would be able to prove through the upcoming reporting the progress achieved under the prevention of industrial accidents.

51. Taking into account that 7 EECCA and SEE countries should indicate progress with the implementation of the Convention under the identification of hazardous activities and prevention and that already 28 Parties from Western and Central European countries proved high level of implementation under the two key provisions, this gives 35 countries that perform satisfactory for the selected two indicators.

52. As far as the third indicator is concerned - notification on industrial accidents under the UNECE Industrial Accidents Notification System - the satisfactory performance has decreased with the move to web-based version of the System in 2008 and reached only the value of 24. This is due to the fact that many countries still failed to register with the web-based application and other did not train their staff. Nevertheless, it is expected that after a series of communication tests and the consultation between IAN System users linked to training on the web-based application, already in the second half of 2010, 40 countries would be able to perform satisfactory under the System.

III. PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR THE EVALUATION OF PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE 2010–2011

53. The clusters of activities of the Environment subprogramme proposed for the biennium 2010-2011 are:

- (a) Environmental Performance Reviews;
- (b) “Environment for Europe” process: preparation of the Seventh Ministerial Conference;
- (c) Follow-up to World Summit on Sustainable Development;
- (d) Environmental monitoring and assessment;
- (e) Education for sustainable development;
- (f) Transport, health and environment;
- (g) The Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution;
- (h) The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters;
- (i) The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context;
- (j) The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes;
- (k) The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

54. The expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for these clusters for the purpose of the 2010–2011 biennial performance evaluations are presented in annex II.

IV. UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2012-2013

55. The draft strategic framework 2012-2013 is included in annex III. In accordance with the UNECE programme planning process, the draft strategic framework must be reviewed by the UNECE Executive Committee in November/December 2009 and submitted to United Nations Headquarters in early 2010. The Bureau and the Committee are invited to take note of the draft strategic framework 2012–2013.

Annex I

**EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME,
PER CLUSTER OF ACTIVITIES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF 2008–2009 BIENNIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

I. EVALUATION PLANS 2008-2009

No.	Cluster of activities	Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
1.	Environmental Performance Reviews	Improved environmental performance in countries with economies in transition	<p>(i) Increased number of countries with improved environmental performance demonstrated by a set of indicators reflected in the EPRs</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2007: 7 countries Target: 2008-2009: 10 countries Result 2008-2009: 10 countries</p> <p>(ii) Number of recommendations which have contributed to policy formulation and implementation as reported by the reviewed countries</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2007: 155 recommendations Target: 2008-2009: 255 recommendations Result 2008-2009: 265 recommendations</p>
2.	Follow up to the Ministerial Conference Environment for Europe	Successful reform of the “Environment for Europe” process	<p>Consensus reached by member States on the reform as requested by Ministers at the Belgrade Conference</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2007: No consensus reached yet Target: 2008-2009: Consensus expected with successful finalization of reform plan end of January 2009 Result 2008-2009: The Reform Plan of the “Environment for Europe” process was adopted by the Committee on Environmental Policy on 27 January 2009; and was subsequently endorsed by the UN ECE Commission at its 63rd session on 1 April 2009.</p>

No.	Cluster of activities	Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
3.	Follow up to World Summit on Sustainable Development	Successful review of progress in the implementation of the WSSD outcomes and Agenda 21 within the biennial CSD implementation cycle	<p>Consensus reached by member States on key challenges to be addressed as they relate to the themes of the CSD cycle</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2007: No consensus reached yet Target: 2008-2009: Consensus to be reached at 3rd RIM January 2008 Result 2008-2009: Consensus was reached at 3rd RIM January 2008</p>
4.	Environmental monitoring	Strengthened capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment in Eastern Europe Caucasus and Central Asia	<p>Increased number of countries that reported on the state of the environment following the guidelines for the preparation of governmental reports on the state and protection of the environment</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2007: 5 countries Target: 2008-2009: 7 countries Result 2008-2009: 7 countries</p>
5.	Education for sustainable development	Enhanced integration of key themes of sustainable development in national education programmes at all levels	<p>Increased number of countries that integrate the key themes of sustainable development into national education programmes</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2007: 0 countries Target: 2008-2009: 16 countries (30% of UNECE member States) Result 2008-2009: 17 countries (30% of UNECE member States)</p>
6.	Transport, health and environment	Enhanced integration between transport health and environment	<p>Increased number of uploaded documents within the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme Clearing House demonstrating an integrated policy approach</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2007: 88 documents uploaded to Clearinghouse (revised from 83) Target: 2008-2009: 150 documents to be uploaded to Clearinghouse Result 2008-2009: 92</p>
7.	Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution	Strengthened implementation of the air pollution convention	<p>Indicators of progress in implementing the Convention in three key provisions:</p> <p>(a) Number of reviews of strategies and policies by Parties to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution;</p>

No.	Cluster of activities	Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
			<p>(b) Accumulating number of ratifications of the eight protocols to the Convention;</p> <p>(c) Number of training sessions targeting implementation of the Convention and its protocols in EECCA and SEE countries</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2007: (a) 18 (b) 227 (c) 5 Target: 2008-2009: (a) 28 (b) 235 (c) 5 Result 2008-2009: (a) 34 (b) 233 (c) 8</p>
8.	Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	Strengthened implementation of the Aarhus convention	<p>Increased number of countries submitting National Implementation Reports to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention reporting progress in 3 key provisions:</p> <p>(a) On the establishment and maintenance of clear, transparent and consistent legislative, regulatory and administrative framework to implement the Convention;</p> <p>(b) On progressive establishment of coherent nationwide systems of pollution inventories or registers on a structured, computerized and publicly accessible database compiled through standardized reporting; and</p> <p>(c) With regard to the requirement on each Party to progressively increase the range of environmental information available through the public telecommunications network</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2007: (a) 26 (b) 0 (c) 26 Target: 2008-2009: (a) 36 (b) 10 (c) 36 Result 2008-2009: (a) 41 (b) 16 (c) 41</p>

No.	Cluster of activities	Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
9.	Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context	Strengthened implementation of the environmental impact assessment convention	<p>Increased number of countries working to improve implementation of the convention in three main areas:</p> <p>(a) Increased number of countries indicating progress in subregional cooperation under the Convention;</p> <p>(b) Increased number of Parties indicating progress in strengthening compliance with the Convention; and</p> <p>(c) Increased number of countries participating in training workshops on the Convention's Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2007: (a) 21 (b) 25 (c) 6 Target: 2008-2009: (a) 24 (b) 29 (c) 12 Result 2008-2009: (a) 23 (b) 38 (c) 11</p>
10.	Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes	Strengthened implementation of the water convention	<p>Increased number of countries indicating progress in implementing the convention in 3 key provisions:</p> <p>(a) Increased number of countries ratifying the Protocol on Water and health;</p> <p>(b) Increased capacity of non-EU countries to assess the impact of climate change on their water resources; and</p> <p>(c) Increased capacity of non-EU countries to plan and implement adaptation strategies for water management</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2007: (a) 21 (b) 0 (c) 0 Target: 2008-2009: (a) 24 (b) 10 (c) 10 Result 2008-2009: (a) 24 (b) 12 (c) 12</p>
11.	Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	Strengthened implementation of the industrial accidents convention	<p>Increased number of reports from countries indicating progress in implementing the convention in 3 key provisions:</p> <p>(a) Identification of hazardous activities through training sessions;</p> <p>(b) Prevention – application and strengthening of preventive measures at hazardous activities through capacity building sessions; and</p>

No.	Cluster of activities	Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
			<p>(c) Notification of industrial accidents using the Industrial Accidents Notification System implemented through training sessions</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>Baseline 2007: (a) 24 (b) 25 (c) 25</p> <p>Target: 2008-2009: (a) 30 (b) 30 (c) 35</p> <p>Result 2008-2009: (a) 35 (b) 35 (c) 24</p>

Annex II

EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME, PER CLUSTER OF ACTIVITIES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF 2010–2011 BIENNIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

No.	Cluster of activities	Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
1.	Environmental Performance Reviews	Improved environmental performance in countries with economies in transition	<p>(i) Increased number of countries with improved environmental performance demonstrated by a set of indicators reflected in the EPRs</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2009: 10 countries Target: 2010-2011: 14 countries</p> <p>(ii) Number of recommendations which have contributed to policy formulation and implementation as reported by the reviewed countries</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2009: 235 recommendations Target: 2010-2011: 365 recommendations</p>
2.	“Environment for Europe” process: preparation of the Seventh Ministerial Conference	Successful organization of the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”	<p>Consensus reached by member States on the Conference agenda and outcomes</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2009: consensus not yet reached Target: 2010-2011: consensus to be reached</p>
3.	Follow up to World Summit on Sustainable Development	Successful review of progress in the implementation of the WSSD outcomes and Agenda 21 within the biennial CSD implementation cycle	<p>Consensus reached by member States on key challenges to be addressed as they relate to the themes of the CSD cycle</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2009: consensus not yet reached Target: 2010-2011: consensus to be reached at the UNECE Fourth Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development in December 2009.</p>

No.	Cluster of activities	Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
4.	Environmental monitoring and assessment	Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe	<p>Increased number of countries applying the environmental indicators as defined in the ECE guidelines for the application of environmental indicators</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> 2006-2007: 0 countries Estimate 2008-09: 6 countries Target 2010-11: 11 countries</p>
5.	Education for sustainable development	Enhanced implementation of the ESD strategy on national level	<p>Successful measures to implement ESD Strategy at national level, assessed through the 1st mandatory submission of national implementation reports of the member States</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2009: 0 Target: 2010-2011: 40</p>
6.	Transport, health and environment	Enhanced integration between transport health and environment policy	<p>Increased engagement by Member States and THE PEP Focal Points across the transport, health and environment sectors in THE PEP policy framework, indicated by their presence in Steering Committee meetings and workshops and transmission of evidence and examples of good practice in pursuing an integrated policy approach during in-depth discussions on the attainment of the 4 Amsterdam Goals and implementation of THE PEP work plan 2010-14.</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2009: participation on the average of 30 countries and 10 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations per meeting in 3 substantive meetings, including 1 high level meeting, 1 capacity-building workshop and 1 session of THE PEP Steering Committee</p> <p>Target: 2010-2011: participation on the average of 40 countries and 20 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in 6 substantive meetings, including 4 capacity-building workshops (<i>estaffete</i> to disseminate best practice) and 2 sessions of THE PEP Steering Committee including in-depth discussions on the Amsterdam Goals and progress made toward implementation of THE PEP work plan 2010-2014.</p>
7.	Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air	Strengthened implementation of the air pollution convention and protocols, with a	Indicators of progress in implementing the Convention in three key provisions:

No.	Cluster of activities	Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
	Pollution	particular focus on EECCA and SEE countries	<p>(a) Number of reviews of strategies and policies by Parties to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution;</p> <p>(b) Accumulating number of ratifications of the eight protocols to the Convention;</p> <p>(c) Number of training sessions targeting implementation of the Convention and its protocols in EECCA and SEE countries</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2009: (a) 34 (b) 233 (c) 8 Target: 2010-2011: (a) 38 (b) 243 (c) 10</p>
8.	Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	Strengthened implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs	<p>Increased adherence to and implementation by countries in meeting their obligations under the Convention and Protocol through:</p> <p>(a) Increased number of ratifications of the Aarhus Convention;</p> <p>(b) Increased number of ratifications of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs); and</p> <p>(c) Increased number of countries submitting National Implementation Reports to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, indicating progress in implementing key obligations.</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2009: (a) 43 (b) 23 (c) 41 Target: 2010-2011: (a) 45 (b) 25 (c) 43</p>

No.	Cluster of activities	Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
9.	Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context	Strengthened implementation of the environmental impact assessment convention	<p>Increased number of countries working to improve implementation of the convention in three main areas:</p> <p>(a) Increased number of countries contributing to subregional cooperation under the Convention;</p> <p>(b) Increased number of reporting on their implementation of the Convention; and</p> <p>(c) Increased number of Parties to the Convention's Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2009: (a) 23 (b) 38 (c) 12 Target: 2010-2011: (a) 24 (b) 40 (c) 18</p>
10.	Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes	Strengthened implementation of the water convention	<p>Increased number of countries indicating progress in implementing the convention in 3 key provisions:</p> <p>(a) Increased number of countries ratifying the Protocol on Water and health;</p> <p>(b) Increased number of countries participating in the preparation of the second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters; and</p> <p>(c) Increased number of countries participating in the National Policy Dialogue under the EU Water Initiative</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2009: (a) 24 (b) 10 (c) 4 Target: 2010-2011: (a) 26 (b) 25 (c) 7</p>
11.	Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	Strengthened implementation of the industrial accidents convention	<p>Increased number of reports from countries indicating progress in implementing the convention in 3 key provisions:</p> <p>(a) Identification of hazardous activities through training sessions;</p> <p>(b) Prevention – application and strengthening of preventive measures at hazardous activities through capacity building sessions; and</p> <p>(c) Notification of industrial accidents using the Industrial Accidents</p>

No.	Cluster of activities	Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
			Notification System implemented through training sessions <i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline 2009: (a) 35 (b) 35 (c) 24 Target: 2010-2011: (a) 40 (b) 40 (c) 40

Annex III

PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR 2012–2013

Objective of the organization: To safeguard the environment and health, improve environmental management throughout the region and further promote integration of environmental policies into sectoral policies.

Expected accomplishments:

(a) Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe.

(b) Strengthened implementation of ECE regional environmental commitments by member States.

(c) Improved environmental performance in countries with economies in transition.

Indicators of achievement:

(a) Increased number of countries applying the environmental indicators as defined in the ECE guidelines for the application of environmental indicators

Performance measures:

Estimate 2010-2011: 11 countries

Target 2012-2013: 14 countries

(b) Increased number of reports from countries indicating progress in implementing legally binding instruments

Performance measures:

Estimate 2010-2011: 150 reports

Target 2012-2013: 160 reports

(c) (i) Increased number of countries with improved environmental performance as measured by a set of indicators developed for environmental performance reviews

Performance measures:

Estimate 2010-2011: 14 countries

Target 2012-2013: 16 countries

(ii) Increased number of recommendations which have contributed to policy formulation and implementation, as reported by the reviewed countries

Performance measures:

Estimate 2010-2011: 385 recommendations

Target 2012-2013: 420 recommendations

Strategy:

The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division. In line with its objective, the subprogramme will emphasize a country needs-based approach in carrying out its activities. It will focus on building the capacity of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe in environmental policy and management, including for the effective implementation of environmental legislation.

The subprogramme will continue to conduct the second round of environmental performance reviews of countries with economies in transition and assist them to implement the recommendations of their national

environmental performance reviews. Furthermore, it will monitor the impact of such recommendations on policy formulation and implementation. The subprogramme will also assist to build capacity for environmental observation and reporting, which will contribute to provide timely and accurate environmental data to improve monitoring and assessment in these countries. The ECE guidelines on the application of environmental indicators will be promoted for use in member States for environmental monitoring and assessment.

While taking into account the Millennium Development Goals, the subprogramme will further promote the implementation of sustainable development in the ECE region and the outcomes of regional environment and sustainable development conferences, in particular the decisions taken by the Seventh Ministerial Conference, "Environment for Europe" (Astana, 2011).

Actions will be taken to further integrate environment into other sectoral policies through intersectoral programmes and projects, including education for sustainable development, transport, health and environment as well as water and health. It will also improve crossborder environmental security in cooperation with the other regional organizations involved. Cross-sectoral work will also include the promotion of synergies and cooperation between the ECE legally binding instruments.

Emphasis will be placed on supporting the implementation of regional and subregional agreements and action programmes, as well as multi-stakeholder processes and partnerships resulting from, inter alia, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and from the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular by providing regional contributions to the programme cycle of the Commission.

Legislative Mandates:

General Assembly resolutions

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|--------|---|
| 58/217 | International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015 |
| 59/228 | Activities undertaken during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, preparations for the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources |
| 62/189 | Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development |

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2003/61 | Future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development |
|---------|---|

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

- | | |
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| ECE/AC.21/2002/8 | Declaration on the establishment of a Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) adopted by the Second High-Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health |
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