

# **Economic Commission for Europe**

## Committee on Environmental Policy

### **Twenty-second session**

Geneva, 25–27 January 2017

### **Summary of the outcomes of the twenty-second session and the decisions taken**

*(approved by the Committee on 27 January 2017)*

The Committee on Environmental Policy:

- (a) Adopts the agenda of its twenty-second session (ECE/CEP/2017/1), taking into account the proposed timetable, as presented in information paper No. 1;
- (b) Expresses appreciation to the Bureau for its good work in fulfilling the mandates assigned to it by the Committee, and to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) secretariat for the support provided to the Bureau;
- (c) Takes note of the developments in ECE activities linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda);
- (d) Welcomes the information shared by Belarus, Czechia and Kazakhstan on their experience to date in identifying practical ways and means of approaching national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and relevant Sustainable Development Goals from an environmental perspective, and invites Committee members to continue such exchanges of experience and good practice on that topic at its future meetings. Also, invites relevant partners to share information on their activities in support of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals that will be reviewed by the high level political forum on sustainable development during that year;
- (e) Invites countries to consider the Committee's role in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and to continue to discuss the matter at future meetings. In that regard, invites the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare a short background document to facilitate further discussion on the topic at the Committee's twenty-third session in November 2017;
- (f) Welcomes the interactive discussion held on the ECE multilateral environmental agreements, expresses its appreciation to chairs and other members of the bureaux of such agreements for their contributions, and takes note of the information provided with regard to efforts made thus far under each multilateral environmental agreement to define its role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and:
  - (i) Appreciates the opportunity to have an open exchange of views during the Committee session with the participation of the chairs and other representatives of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements;
  - (ii) Welcomes the steps being taken under the ECE multilateral environmental agreements to align, as appropriate, their activities, strategies, work programmes and workplans with the 2030 Agenda;
  - (iii) Invites the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements to seek synergies and coordination with the relevant activities of other international organizations, including within the United Nations system;
  - (iv) Recognizes the importance of transparency, including easy access to information, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

- (v) Underlines that cooperation at the national and international levels between relevant sectors (e.g., a nexus approach), including effective engagement of stakeholders, is key to the coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- (vi) Takes note of the recent developments at the informal joint meetings between the representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements and the Committee, and encourages the continuation of such coordination, including on possible additional synergies and horizontal challenges, especially on information accessibility;
- (vii) Encourages countries to ratify or accede to, and to implement, as appropriate, the ECE multilateral environmental agreements, and emphasizes that further work is needed, particularly at the national level, in order to enhance the full implementation of those agreements;
- (g) Appreciates the excellent organization and successful outcomes of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016) and, in that regard:
  - (i) Expresses its gratitude to Georgia for its warm hospitality and efficient preparation of the Conference;
  - (ii) Congratulates its members and observers on the successful and memorable Conference, which demonstrated the continuing relevance of the Environment for Europe process;
  - (iii) Greatly appreciates the work of the ECE secretariat in organizing the Conference;
  - (iv) Appreciates the role of partner organizations in organizing the Conference, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO), from the United Nations system, but also the European Environment Agency, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Regional Environmental Centres and the non-governmental organization, European ECO Forum;
  - (v) Agrees to carry out the survey contained in document ECE/CEP/2017/L.3 to assess lessons learned from the preparation, organization and running of the Batumi Conference, with a view to improving the preparation of the next Conference, and requests the secretariat to launch the survey in February 2017, with a one-month deadline for responses, and to prepare an analysis of the responses received for consideration by the Committee at its next session;
  - (vi) Requests the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare a document proposing the scope, format and modalities for organizing a mid-term review of the Batumi Conference main outcomes for consideration by the Committee at its next session;
  - (vii) Welcomes the information provided by the Chair of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) on activities to promote the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA), and reiterates the invitation to countries and organizations to join BACA by submitting actions to improve air quality;
  - (viii) Expresses appreciation to Germany, the Republic of Moldova, Switzerland and Uzbekistan for sharing their experience and progress in implementing their commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E), and invites countries and organizations to continue implementing their BIG-E commitments and sharing their experiences and good practice at Committee meetings;

- (ix) Welcomes the increasing number of BIG-E stakeholders, noting with appreciation that France has joined BIG-E, and invites countries and organizations to consider joining BIG-E and submitting additional actions on green economy;
  - (x) With regard to greening the economy, stresses the importance of the active involvement of the private sector and of other stakeholders across pan-European region and at the global level;
  - (xi) Welcomes the information provided by the Green Action Programme Task Force secretariat, hosted by OECD, on the Task Force's ongoing work, and invites the Task Force secretariat to inform the Committee regularly about the Task Force's activities;
  - (xii) Invites ECE and the United Nations Environment Programme, in cooperation with OECD and other relevant partners and in consultation with interested countries and organizations, to report on activities to promote and implement the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy and BIG-E at the Committee's next session;
  - (xiii) Expresses appreciation to Switzerland, ECE, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Green Growth Knowledge Platform for organizing a side event on sharing knowledge and good practices in implementing BIG-E;
  - (xiv) Invites countries and organizations to promote BACA and BIG-E at relevant national and international meetings and events, as appropriate, with a view to enhancing the potential and impact of these initiatives, in particular as they provide practical support to the achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals;
- (h) Greatly appreciates the work of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, and adopts the revised mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group for 2017–2021, set out in an annex to the present summary, and requests the secretariat to submit the renewed mandate to the ECE Executive Committee for approval, and:
- (i) Invites ECE member States and relevant organizations to participate actively in the activities and meetings of the Working Group, and welcomes the idea of organizing a workshop in mid-2017 with the participation of relevant actors from the region;
  - (ii) Asks the Working Group to take into account the financial and human resources available in developing its yearly detailed plans of activities, and to develop a more detailed outline of activities leading up to 2021;
  - (iii) Requests that the new terms of reference for the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment be annexed to the report of the Committee on its twenty-second session;
- (i) Greatly appreciates the work of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators;
- (j) Welcomes the information provided regarding the work of the Group on Earth Observations and the use of geospatial environmental information;
- (k) Welcomes the information provided regarding the developments under the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting;
- (l) Appreciates the leadership of the Russian Federation in the ECE Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme;
  - (m) Appreciates the close cooperation of the ECE Statistics Division on and its contribution to the activities of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators;

- (n) Invites member States and organizations to provide in-kind and financial support to the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme, and in particular thanks the European Union, Norway, the Russian Federation and Switzerland for their financial support, and also the United Nations Environment Programme, the European Environment Agency and OECD for their substantive support to the Programme;
- (o) Adopts the recommendations in the Third Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan (information paper No. 3);
- (p) Also adopts the recommendations in the Third Environmental Performance Review of Bulgaria (information paper No. 2);
- (q) Welcomes the information provided by the Republic of Moldova on the implementation of recommendations contained in its Third Environmental Performance Review, conducted in 2013;
- (r) Approves the draft document “Role of environmental performance reviews in supporting the achievement and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals in the pan-European region” (ECE/CEP/2017/L.2) prepared by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews, and requests the secretariat to process it in its final edited version for the next session of the Committee;
- (s) Welcomes the information provided on activities under the Environmental Performance Review Programme, and expresses its appreciation to the secretariat for the excellent work in support of the Environmental Performance Review Programme;
- (t) Greatly appreciates the work of the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews in 2016, and invites delegations to nominate their representatives to the Group;
- (u) Welcomes the ongoing third environmental performance reviews of Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- (v) Takes note of the preparatory work to conduct a third environmental performance review of Kazakhstan;
- (w) Welcomes the request from Romania to undergo its third environmental performance review;
- (x) Welcomes the request from Mongolia to undergo an environmental performance review and the close cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in preparing that review;
- (y) Welcomes the expression of interest by Ukraine in undergoing a third environmental performance review;
- (z) Welcomes the exchange of experience and good practices during the peer-learning discussion “Countries’ cooperation with the international community: lessons learned from the environmental performance reviews”, and:
  - (i) Recognizes the challenges encountered by countries under review in implementation of review recommendations related to accession to multilateral environmental agreements, and stresses the importance of pre-accession assistance, including training and capacity development;
  - (ii) Emphasizes the importance of synergies and coordination in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at both the national and international levels;
  - (iii) Recognizes the need for stronger efforts to engage the private sector in international cooperation on the environment and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements;

- (iv) Acknowledges the role of environmental performance reviews in assisting the countries under review to strengthen their cooperation with the international community;
- (v) Welcomes the interactive format of the peer-learning discussion, and recognizes the role of environmental performance reviews as a mechanism for peer learning;
- (aa) Takes note of the information provided by the secretariat on resource mobilization for the Environmental Performance Review Programme in 2016 and in particular thanks:
  - (i) Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for their financial support;
  - (ii) Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit, and WHO for providing expertise;
  - (iii) Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sweden and Switzerland for having delegated their experts to the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews;
  - (iv) UNDP for logistical support;
- (bb) Appreciates the close cooperation of the ECE Sustainable Energy, Forests, Land and Housing, Statistics and Sustainable Transport Divisions with the Environmental Performance Review Programme;
- (cc) Encourages delegations to provide in-kind (expert) and financial support to the Environmental Performance Review Programme;
- (dd) Takes note of the information provided and welcomes the progress of work under the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, while noting with concern the difficult situation with regard to mobilizing voluntary contributions sufficient to enable the continuation of the regional intergovernmental platform and other activities to share experience and good practice with a view to advancing education for sustainable development across the region;
- (ee) Also takes note of information provided on and welcomes the progress of work under the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), and invites its interested members to consider joining the Bureau of the Steering Committee of THE PEP;
- (ff) Further takes note of the information provided with regard to the Environment and Security Initiative and the technical assistance provided to the member States within its framework;
- (gg) Additionally takes note of the information provided on, and welcomes the developments under, the European Environment and Health Process with regard to the preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference (Ostrava, Czechia, 13–15 June 2017), and:
  - (i) Invites countries and organizations to participate in the upcoming Ostrava Conference;
  - (ii) Asks the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau to assess the implications of establishing a joint secretariat between ECE and WHO for servicing the European Environment and Health Process and to prepare a short information note for the Committee's consideration at its next session;

- (iii) Decides to postpone the appointment of ministers from the environment sector to the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board to the next session of the Committee, pending the outcomes of the Ostrava Conference;
- (hh) Takes note of the activities of the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management and the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, in particular the progress of work on energy efficiency in buildings and the forestry sector in the green economy, and welcomes a closer cooperation with these Committees;
- (ii) Notes the information provided with respect to gender mainstreaming across ECE activities, and in environmental activities carried out by the Environment Division since the Committee's last session, and:
  - (i) Recognizes the importance of gender mainstreaming in environmental activities, particularly in the light of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and emphasizes that gender equality is both a goal in itself and a means to contribute to achieving sustainable development;
  - (ii) Supports international initiatives to promote gender equality, and welcomes continued cooperation and coordination with the United Nations bodies and other relevant international forums and actors to this end;
  - (iii) Agrees to continue to mainstream gender perspectives into its activities.
- (jj) Takes note of the information provided about problems in reporting on the status of resources for environmental activities, and:
  - (i) Expresses concern about the difficulties arising from the fact that Umoja is not fully operational;
  - (ii) Requests the secretariat to provide information on the status of resources in the Environment subprogramme for the biennium 2016–2017 at the Committee's next session;
  - (iii) Invites countries and other stakeholders to consider making voluntary contributions to the Environment for Europe trust fund to support participation of eligible participants in the meetings of the Committee and its Bureau, and in this regard expresses gratitude to Luxembourg, Norway and Switzerland for their financial contribution to support secretariat activities under the Environment for Europe process;
- (kk) Adopts the revised criteria for financial support for participation in meetings and events as included in information paper No.7, and requests that the text be annexed to the report of the Committee's twenty-second session;
- (ll) Mandates the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to prepare a first draft of the Committee's revised terms of reference, for the Committee's consideration at its twenty-third session. In that regard, asks the secretariat to circulate the current terms of reference to Committee members and observers for comments by 28 February 2017, and to compile the comments received for consideration by the Bureau;
- (mm) Welcomes the information provided by the United Nations Environment Programme about developments in preparing the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and:
  - (i) Expresses appreciation to the members of the United Nations Environment Assembly Bureau and other speakers participating in the panel discussion for their interesting presentations on the preparation and framing of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;
  - (ii) Invites countries and organizations to promote the work of ECE related to the themes of the third session of United Nations Environment Assembly at that body's

next session, including, inter alia, the ECE multilateral environmental agreements (the Convention on the Protection of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Air Convention) and recent initiatives launched under the Environment for Europe process, namely, the Astana Water Action (AWA), BACA, and BIG-E;

(iii) Invites the United Nations Environment Programme to continue informing the Committee about the preparations for the third session of United Nations Environment Assembly, in particular at the Committee's next session.

(nn) Decides to further consider the need for the Committee on Environmental Policy to have specific rules of procedure and to postpone its decision on the matter to the Committee's next session;

(oo) Decides to postpone elections of officers to the next session of the Committee, with the current Bureau continuing until then;

(pp) Approves the proposed schedule of Committee and Bureau meetings until 2019, as presented in information paper No. 9/Rev.2, and agrees to organize the Committee's twenty-third session in Geneva from 14 to 17 November 2017;

(qq) Requests the Bureau and the secretariat to follow up on the Committee's decisions, including by preparing the documents and reports necessary for the Committee's work at its next session in 2017.

## Annex

### **Mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment**

#### **I. Mandate**

1. The Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment shall serve as the environmental knowledge and assessment network for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, under the oversight of the Committee on Environmental Policy. It shall report annually to the Committee on its achievements and the implementation or modification of the objectives and activities set out herein. These terms of reference are valid for a period of five years, until the Committee's regular session in 2021.

#### **II. Objectives**

2. The aim of the Working Group, under the oversight of the Committee, is to:

(a) Assist in the establishment and operation of national information systems in line with the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in Europe and Central Asia by 2021;

(b) Lead a process of consultation on the regular pan-European environmental assessment and the streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting by 2020;

(c) Initiate a process of consultation between ECE member States and other institutions and networks with relevant expertise in the area, as appropriate, on the development of a regional environmental information and assessment network of networks and, as part of this process, develop an inclusive platform for countries to discuss the integration of environmental, economic and social considerations with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, the green economy and other related areas of work;

(d) Engage in capacity-building assistance with regard to specific challenges in environmental monitoring and assessment, including the development and improvement of national environmental monitoring systems, their technical specifications and modernization, and the collection of environmental knowledge through national monitoring systems in the ECE countries. The Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (Joint Task Force) will continue to carry out all activities relating to statistical capacity-building for countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

#### **III. Planned activities and outputs**

3. The Working Group shall:

(a) Assist in the establishment and operation of national information systems in line with SEIS in Europe and Central Asia, and in particular:

(i) Continue supporting the establishment of SEIS with regard to its specific content and principles in support of regular environmental assessment processes and reporting;

- (ii) Continue cooperating with the Joint Task Force in its work on environmental statistics and indicators, associated data sets, and accompanying environmental information and data necessary to establish SEIS;
  - (iii) Regularly evaluate the performance of ECE countries in establishing and implementing SEIS against the SEIS targets and performance indicators adopted by the Committee;
  - (iv) Contribute to the mid-term review process on the implementation of the main outcomes of the Batumi Conference;
  - (v) Prepare a mid-term and final report for the Committee on the establishment and implementation of SEIS leading up to 2021;
  - (vi) Provide annual recommendations on how SEIS can be further strengthened in European and Central Asian countries;
- (b) Lead a process of consultation on the regular pan-European environmental assessment and the streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting by 2020, and in particular:
- (i) Bring together experts involved in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Environment Outlook process and the European Environment Agency's European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET), including interested parties, to discuss and oversee the regular pan-European environmental assessment;
  - (ii) Discuss and detail regional priorities concerning the streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting, involving also other thematic networks, including those under the multilateral environmental agreements, in the discussion;
  - (iii) Oversee the implementation of proposed recommendations and guidance provided through the consultation process on the regular pan-European environmental assessment and the streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting;
- (c) Initiate a process of consultation on the development of a regional environmental information and assessment network of networks and, as part of this process, develop an inclusive platform to discuss the integration of environmental, economic and social considerations regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, the green economy, and other related areas of work, and in particular:
- (i) Coordinate a consultative process, involving all relevant thematic networks and interested parties, including secretariats of conventions and other institutions, at both the regional and national levels, to elaborate the working modalities of a regional network of networks;
  - (ii) Cooperate with the Joint Task Force to ensure that all planned and future activities are synergistic and streamlined;
  - (iii) Develop capacities to engage other communities and networks, such as the Group on Earth Observations, to discuss how environmental, social and economic information and data can be integrated and utilized in decision-making and how to present environmental information on geospatial platforms;
  - (iv) Operationalize proposed recommendations and guidance provided through the consultative process to ensure the sustainable implementation of a regional environmental information and assessment network of networks;

- (v) Publish outcomes from the Working Group's collaborative activities (e.g., best practices, guidelines and lessons learned) to share outputs and guide future activities in the area;
- (d) Engage in capacity-building assistance addressing specific challenges related to environmental monitoring and assessment and environmental knowledge maintained through national monitoring systems in the European and Central Asian countries. The identification of specific challenges (e.g., air quality, water and waste monitoring) will depend on regional and national capacity gaps and the identification of priority areas for action to be defined by the Working Group members. In particular, the implementation of all subsequent activities will depend on the mobilization of resources to enable the Working Group to organize and offer additional capacity-building assistance to enhance environmental monitoring and assessment capabilities. Such activities include:
- (i) Detailing regional and national capacity gaps, in collaboration with the Joint Task Force, in information and data needed for producing the ECE set of environmental indicators, the European Environment Agency core set of indicators, OECD green growth indicators and Sustainable Development Goal indicators. This will include identifying data and information gaps in the target countries;
  - (ii) Supporting countries in the development of regional and national indicator frameworks to monitor the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and activities to support their implementation, including the review and establishment of national reporting mechanisms, procedures and methodological approaches associated with the Sustainable Development Goal indicators in all ECE countries;
  - (iii) Engaging and liaising directly with other relevant knowledge-sharing actors working on capacity-building in related areas of work, such as the Group on Earth Observations, Global Environment Facility-funded Cross-Cutting Capacity Development projects and UNEP Live, throughout the pan-European region;
  - (iv) Implementing capacity-building activities to provide assistance in accordance with priority areas of action identified for targeted ECE countries.
4. The following outputs will be achieved leading up to 2021:
- (a) SEIS data sets, as contained in the ECE Online Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators, will be gradually reviewed in collaboration with the Joint Task Force and as part of refining SEIS progress reporting;
  - (b) Assistance will be provided to target countries for reporting on SEIS establishment and starting preparations for the mid-term and final SEIS performance reports in 2018 and 2021, respectively;
  - (c) Recommendations and advice will be provided to ECE countries to improve their SEIS performance;
  - (d) Working modalities of the regional environmental information and assessment network of networks will be defined and operationalized;
  - (e) Assistance will be provided in the preparation of the regular pan-European environmental assessment and other relevant state-of-the-environment reports;
  - (f) Support will be given for the preparation of regional and national indicator frameworks to monitor the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and the establishment of national reporting mechanisms, procedures and methodological approaches associated with Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

(g) Thematic conferences, meetings and workshops will be organized to prepare publications that address the integration of environmental and economic data, subject to the availability of funding;

(h) Focused capacity-building activities will be carried out to address specific national priorities, including the preparation of training materials and the provision of advisory services, subject to the availability of funding.

## IV. Timetable

5. The Working Group shall prepare an annual timetable of activities and achievements, as an official document, and regularly report to the Committee. This will ensure that the Working Group can accommodate new demands over time and allow the Committee to comment and monitor ongoing and future activities. The Working Group shall also endeavour to submit a mid-term review of progress its work to the Committee as a stocktaking exercise.

6. During 2017 the Working Group shall:

(a) Assist in the review of the ECE core environmental indicators and associated data sets identified as priority areas by the Joint Task Force and taking into account the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting;

(b) Operationalize the online SEIS reporting application through UNEP Live, in collaboration with UNEP, and present the outcomes to the Committee at its twenty-third session;

(c) Present the working modalities of the regional environmental information and assessment network of networks to the Committee at its twenty-third session;

(d) Organize a consultation and workshop to detail regional and national priorities regarding monitoring and assessment capabilities needed for compiling environmentally related Sustainable Development Goal indicators as part of defining priority areas of action for the Working Group for 2018;

(e) Organize a thematic workshop that addresses how environmental and economic data can be integrated, and engage other communities and networks, such as the Group on Earth Observations, in these activities;

(f) Continue efforts to mobilize resources and support from regional and international organizations to enable the Working Group to increase its capacity-building assistance;

(g) The new mandate of the Working Group will be reviewed and amended by the Committee following the mid-term review of the main outcomes of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in 2018.

## V. Methods of work

7. The Working Group shall meet at least once annually. It shall also communicate through e-mail and other electronic collaborative platforms, such as its newsletter and social networks, in the period between meetings.

8. Additional meetings, workshops and capacity-building activities will be organized subject to the availability of funding.

## **VI. Membership**

9. The Working Group shall be composed of members from all of the ECE member States. They should represent the national institutions dealing with environmental monitoring and environmental knowledge and assessment.

10. The Working Group shall also involve representatives of programmes and policies and multilateral environmental agreements dealing with the collection of environmental data and information and the generation of environmental assessments — whether covering the environment as a whole, or only certain themes — as well as expert teams.

11. The Working Group shall elect a chair and two vice-chairs for a term of up to two years, ensuring a regional balance in the nominations. The chair and vice-chairs shall be eligible for re-election for one additional term.

## **VII. Secretariat support and resources**

12. In its operation, the Working Group shall be serviced by the ECE secretariat, supported by UNEP and the European Environment Agency, and guided by the relevant procedures established by the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy.

13. Donors will be invited to provide support for the Working Group's activities.

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