

# Role of EPRs in supporting the achievement and monitoring of SDGs in the pan-European region

**Martine Rohn-Brossard, Switzerland,**  
on behalf of the Expert Group on  
Environmental Performance Reviews

CEP-22, 26 January 2017

## 8th EfE Ministerial Conference, Batumi

“We acknowledge the important contribution of the ECE Environmental Performance Review Programme over the past 20 years as an effective and practical policy tool, and highlight the role it can play in supporting the achievement and monitoring of SDGs in the pan-European region...” (Ministerial Declaration par.9)

# Extended meeting of Expert Group (EG) on EPRs, 9 December 2016

- EG members (Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland)
- + Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
- + UNEP, WHO, Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, CAREC
- Written comments from Belgium and Italy

# EPR-relevant goals and/or targets

- Relevant for the particular EPR content requested by the country under review
- Can go broader than environment-related SDGs, when this is relevant for chapters of particular EPR

# How can EPRs assist countries?

## (1/2)

- Assist in adapting to the national context of EPR-relevant goals and/or targets
- Assess progress with EPR-relevant goals and/or targets, provide recommendations aimed to support their achievement
- Contribute to sharing of experience among countries

# How can EPRs assist countries?

## (2/2)

- Contribute to country-driven follow up and review at national level
  - Serve as a building block to national reviews
  - Serve as inputs to voluntary national reviews at HLPF when those are done by respective countries

# How? Multiple options!

- Four options elaborated (3 + 1 added at the meeting)

## **Option 1: Including the review of EPR-relevant goals and/or targets into the contents of the chapters of the EPR report**

- Straightforward
- Indicative mapping done; target-specific mapping to be adjusted every time
- Boxes/sections inside chapters
- Done by same experts who write chapters, so no additional cost
- Experts look for data which is needed anyway for their chapters
- In countries:
  - Additional institutions may need to be involved
  - Additional data would need to be provided

## Option 2: Chapter on the assessment of progress towards achieving EPR-relevant goals and/or targets

- Two sub-options:
  - I. A self-standing chapter
  - II. Extend the Chapter on international agreements and commitments
- More suitable for integrated approach, easier to use later
- No additional workload for other chapters
- EPRs have not done it, though there is experience to do it
- Additional expert would be needed in case of sub-option (i)
- More 'unique' expertise would be required
- In countries:
  - Additional institutions may need to be involved
  - Additional data would need to be provided

### **Option 3: Integrating EPR-relevant goals and/or targets into the contents of the chapters and covering in an additional chapter the goals and/or targets not addressed by other chapters but requested by the country under review**

- “Combined+” option
- Broader coverage of SDGs upon request of the country
- More suitable for integrated approach
- EPRs have not done it, though there is experience to do it
- Additional expert would be needed to prepare additional chapter
- More ‘unique’ expertise would be required
- In countries:
  - Additional institutions may need to be involved
  - Additional data would need to be provided

**Option 4: A general review of the 2030 Agenda implementation in the chapter on legal and policy framework + the review of EPR-relevant goals and/or targets in other chapters**

- **Added value: puts the analyses of EPR-relevant goals and/or targets in the context of overall efforts to implement 2030 Agenda**
- Done by same experts who write chapters
- Experts look for data which is needed anyway for their chapters
- In countries:
  - Additional institutions may need to be involved
  - Additional data would need to be provided

# Conclusions of the Extended meeting of EG on EPRs

- All options have their merits and constraints
  - Various preferences of reviewed countries
- ⇒ No one-size-fits-all approach
- ⇒ Country-tailored approach
- ⇒ Options to serve as a starting point for discussion with a country under review
- ⇒ Clear guidance from secretariat to review teams needed
- ⇒ Guidance from EG to the secretariat on the basis of experience gained
- ⇒ Strengthening partnerships needed