23rd Session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy
Geneva, 14-17 November 2017, Salle VII

Agenda item 5. Follow-up to the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and preparation of the mid-term review of the Conference’s main outcomes

Wednesday, 15 November, 3-5 p.m.

Batumi Talk Show: Scoring SDGs through action on green economy and clean air

Date: 15 November 2017
Time: 3–4 p.m.
Venue: Salle VII
Participants: Open to participants of the 23rd session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, representatives of the Permanent Missions to the United Office at Geneva, representatives of United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations, representatives of civil society

BACKGROUND

At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), ministers endorsed the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy — a tool supporting countries’ efforts in transitioning to the green economy and, at the same time, contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To make the Strategic Framework a reality, ministers also launched the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) that consists of voluntary commitments to operationalize the Strategic Framework until 2030. The Strategic Framework and BIG-E are serviced jointly by the UNECE, UNEP and GGKP. At present, 117 commitments have been submitted by 25 countries and 13 organizations. These commitments specify concrete actions for moving towards greener and more inclusive economic patterns. With regard to air quality, ministers reaffirmed their commitment to reduce air pollution and protect public health and ecosystems by endorsing the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA). Thus far, 27 countries and 4 organizations have submitted 108 voluntary commitments to this initiative. The BIG-E and BACA initiatives remain open for stakeholders to join. Countries are invited to announce their new commitments for greening the economy and cleaning the air in a talk show format.

PURPOSE: Promoting the Batumi initiatives with the participation of countries that have joined them with a view to attract new countries and additional voluntary commitments for greening the economy and cleaning the air, and advance the achievements of SDGs

PROGRAMME

- Opening of the event and brief introduction of BIG-E and BACA initiatives
- Short video on green economy and clean air
- Discussion between the hosts and the guests of the Batumi Talk Show
- Representatives from countries and organizations participating in the discussion and present in the room are invited to join the initiatives and announce new commitments for greening the economy and cleaning the air
- Group photo
• Closing of the event

GUESTS OF TALK SHOW
• Belarus
• Czechia
• Portugal
• Sweden
• Switzerland
• Ukraine

HOSTS OF TALK SHOW: Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE, and Jan Dusik, Regional Director, UNEP

ORGANIZING PARTNERS: The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP).