Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting
Yuri Tsaturov / 15 November 2017
Working Group met 27-28 June 2017
Chaired by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
With financial support by Switzerland and EEA
- Financing since received from the Russian Federation
- Nonetheless, a narrow financing base
Approved the annual timetable of activities for 2018

Agreed that next annual timetable should
- Take better into account available financial and human resources
- Ensure work prioritized accordingly
- Include indicators of achievement to allow for monitoring and assessment against objectives set out in new mandate and terms of reference

Approved the outline of activities leading up to 2021 (ECE/CEP/2017/13)
Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment
Streamlining monitoring and reporting obligations

- Discussed streamlining monitoring and reporting obligations in environmental policy
  - EEA on streamlining the environmental reporting process
  - Ecologic Institute on streamlining planning and reporting within the European Union’s Energy Union framework
  - Austria on Austrian Air Quality Database
  - UNEP and UNECE on their role as custodians for monitoring certain SDG indicators
On the question of establishing a regional environmental information and assessment network of networks, Working Group proposed:

- efforts should be directed towards improving participation in its activities and ensuring that it capitalizes on existing structures to achieve the objective of serving as a regional network of networks and to strengthen relations with current partners and others;
- secretariat should develop a document setting out how to use available structures to enhance the visibility of Working Group, improve participation in its meetings and activities and find topics of common interest for the pan-European region. In this way, Working Group would attract wider participation and thus itself continue to develop as a regional network of networks.

Proposed modalities for establishing a regional environmental information & assessment network of networks (ECE/CEP/2017/14)
Integration of economic, social and environmental data

- United Nations Statistics Division presented a questionnaire on water and waste issued by it and UNEP
  - Armenia and Azerbaijan showcased country experiences
- UNECE presented the role of Aarhus Convention in scoping environmental information and promoting integration
- Group on Earth Observations presented Global Earth Observation System of Systems
- European Investment Bank presented its Public Register
Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System: data quality, comparability and self-assessment

- UNITAR on development of national profiles based on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration
  - Country-driven self-assessment an important stepping-stone towards systematic national action in specific areas of environmental management
  - Challenges: lack of knowledge and skills, resources and intersectoral collaboration

- UNECE on role of Aarhus Convention in providing public access to environmental information

- Bosnia and Herzegovina on experiences from piloting UNEP Indicator Reporting Information System
SEIS assessment framework and online SEIS reporting application presented

Working Group agreed
- necessary to pilot SEIS assessment framework and reporting application before moving on to data collection for the mid-term assessment
  - Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia agreed to participate
- steps needed to be taken to ensure SEIS assessment framework streamlined with other initiatives, such as EEA data quality assessment framework
- secretariat to prepare guidance document and clarify which UNECE environmental indicators to be used for piloting
- full list of questions to be converted into a paper-based questionnaire that could be shared with other relevant agencies on national level

Working Group noted that SEIS mid-term assessment would be reviewed at its 20th session (March 2018)
Thank you!

Yuri Tsaturov

15 I 11 I 2017, Geneva