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COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE 2010–2011¹

Note by the secretariat

Summary

At its sixteenth session, Geneva, 20-23 October 2009, the Committee on Environmental Policy mandated its Extended Bureau to consider the indicators of achievements for environment programme performance in 2010-2011 with a view to approve them.

Furthermore, the Committee agreed with the proposal of a Bureau member to attempt to develop an indicator measuring the activities undertaken to help non-Parties to establish the prerequisites for implementing the UNECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) before ratifying them. The secretariat has developed an indicator measuring the “intensity of capacity development in non-Parties for selected UNECE MEAs” in addition to the indicator measuring the ratification progress (for explanation see annex I). The Extended Bureau welcomed the new indicator and requested its completion.

The present document includes the proposed framework for the evaluation of programme performance 2010–2011, as well as the expected accomplishments and related indicators for the purpose of the next biennial evaluation 2010-2011. The Extended Bureau considered and approved the indicators of achievements for environment programme performance in 2010–2011 with the understanding that the new indicator will be completed by the concerned MEAs colleagues after the meeting.

In addition, the paper includes, for information, the subprogramme’s draft 2012–2013 strategic framework drawn up in the context of the United Nations programme planning process.

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).

¹ This paper was not formally edited.

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

II. UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2012-2013

3. The draft strategic framework 2012-2013 included, for information, in annex III was reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe in December 2009 and submitted for further consideration to United Nations Headquarters, and subsequent final adoption by the General Assembly.

Annex I

PROPOSED INDICATOR MEASURING THE “INTENSITY OF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN NON-PARTIES FOR SELECTED UNECE MEAs”

- The indicator should:
 - reflect real capacity development in non-Parties that will assist in achieving the objectives of legal implementation, practical application and eventual ratification;
 - indirectly encourage the focusing of capacity development on these objectives; and
 - be measurable.
- Proposed indicator: Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties for selected UNECE MEAs.
- Selected (eight) UNECE MEAs would be:
 - Five UNECE Environmental Conventions;
 - Protocol on Water and Health;
 - Protocol on PRTRs;
 - Protocol on SEA.
- The indicator would be calculated and reported for individual MEAs. A simple average across the selected (eight) MEAs would also allow for reporting on an aggregated level, in case of need.
- Reporting period: 24 months (1 January 2010 – 31 December 2011).
- Indicator formula:
 - Determine the number (**X**) of Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian² and South-East European (SEE)³ States not Parties⁴ at the start of the reporting period (i.e. 1 January 2010);
 - Determine total number (**Y**) of participant-days over the reporting period (e.g. a three-day workshop with 20 eligible participants would equal 60 participant-days):
 - eligible participants are those from Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian/SEE States that are not Parties at the start of the reporting period (noting that a workshop might include both Parties and non-Parties);
 - eligible events include national and subregional workshops and meetings, regional technical seminars (but not meetings of governing or subsidiary bodies), advisory missions, and technical advice by a consultant (i.e. a consultant would be asked to report on this indicator too: e.g. if in country for five days working with one person every day but spending a day also with three other people, the participant-days would equal eight).⁵
 - Indicator value for an MEA is **Y/X** (the aggregated value for all selected UNECE MEAs is simple average across the selected (eight) MEAs).⁶

² Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

³ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey.

⁴ Not having deposited instruments of ratification, etc.

⁵ There will be no distinction between intense one-on-one meetings and the situation where 10 people sit at the back in a seminar without speaking; however it's impossible to have a perfect indicator.

⁶ It does not seem appropriate to try to measure gender aspects too, within this indicator. Generally female participation is high and the inequalities are more subtle in terms of seniority.

- Indicating the “baseline”: an approximate baseline would be retroactively calculated for the previous reporting period, i.e. biennium 2008-2009, according to the indicator formula presented above.
- Indicating the “target”: an estimate of the intensity of capacity development in non-Parties over the reporting period, i.e. biennium 2010-2011, calculated according to the indicator formula presented above.

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> <u>Baseline biennium 2008–2009:</u> 10 countries <u>Target biennium 2010–2011:</u> 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> <u>Baseline biennium 2008–2009:</u> 235 recommendations <u>Target biennium 2010–2011:</u> 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> <u>Baseline biennium 2008–2009:</u> consensus not yet reached <u>Target biennium 2010–2011:</u> 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> <u>Baseline biennium 2008–2009:</u> consensus not yet reached <u>Target biennium 2010–2011:</u> consensus was reached at the UNECE Fourth Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development on 1-2 December 2009.</p>
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> 2007: 0 countries <u>Baseline biennium 2008–2009:</u> 6 countries <u>Target biennium 2010–2011:</u> 11 countries</p>

No.	Cluster of activities	Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
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 first mandatory submission of national implementation reports of the member States.</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> <u>Baseline biennium 2008–2009:</u> 0 <u>Target biennium 2010–2011:</u> 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> <u>Baseline biennium 2008–2009:</u> 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. <u>Target biennium 2010–2011:</u> 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 Pollution (Air Pollution Convention)	Strengthened implementation of the Air Pollution Convention and protocols, with a focus on Eastern European, Caucasian, Central Asian and SEE countries with the intent to implement and ratify the last 3 protocols of the Convention (Heavy Metals, POPs and Gothenburg protocols)	<p>Indicators of progress in implementing the Convention in four key provisions:</p> <p>(a) Number of reviews of strategies and policies by Parties to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution;</p> <p>(b) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties for the Air Pollution Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);</p> <p>(c) Accumulating number of ratifications of protocols to the Convention;</p> <p>(d) Number of training sessions targeting implementation of the Convention and its protocols in Eastern European, Caucasian, Central Asian and SEE countries.</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> <u>Baseline biennium 2008–2009:</u> (a) 34 (b) 159 (c) 233 (d) 3 <u>Target biennium 2010–2011:</u> (a) 38 (b) 220 (c) 243 (d) 6</p>

No.	Cluster of activities	Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
8.	Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)	Strengthened implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)	<p>Increased adherence to and implementation by countries in meeting their obligations under the Convention and Protocol through:</p> <p>(a) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties for the Aarhus Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);</p> <p>(b) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties for the Protocol on PRTRs (average participant-days per non-Party);</p> <p>(c) Increased number of ratifications of the Aarhus Convention;</p> <p>(d) Increased number of ratifications of the Protocol on PRTRs;</p> <p>(e) 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> <u>Baseline biennium 2008–2009:</u> (a) 6 (b) 3 (c) 43 (d) 23 (e) 41 <u>Target biennium 2010–2011:</u> (a) 8 (b) 4 (c) 45 (d) 25 (e) 43</p>
9.	Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)	Strengthened implementation of the environmental impact assessment Convention	<p>Increased number of countries working to improve implementation of the Convention in five 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;</p> <p>(c) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties for the Espoo Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);</p> <p>(d) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties for the Convention's Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (average participant-days per non-Party);</p> <p>(e) Increased number of Parties to the Convention's Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> <u>Baseline biennium 2008–2009:</u> (a) 23 (b) 38 (c) 8 (d) 9 (e) 12 <u>Target biennium 2010–2011:</u> (a) 24 (b) 40 (c) 15 (d) 10 (e) 18</p>
10.	Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and	Strengthened implementation of the Water Convention	<p>Increased number of countries indicating progress in implementing the Convention in 3 key provisions:</p> <p>(a) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties for the Water Convention (average</p>

No.	Cluster of activities	Expected accomplishment	Indicators of achievement
	International Lakes (Water Convention)		<p>participant-days per non-Party);</p> <p>(b) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties for the Protocol on Water and Health (average participant-days per non-Party);</p> <p>(c) Increased number of countries ratifying the Protocol on Water and Health;</p> <p>(d) Increased number of countries participating in the preparation of the second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the UNECE region;</p> <p>(e) Increased number of countries participating in the National Policy Dialogue under the EU Water Initiative.</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> <u>Baseline biennium 2008–2009:</u> (a) 43 (b) 8 (c) 24 (d) 10 (e) 4 <u>Target biennium 2010–2011:</u> (a) 50 (b) 9 (c) 26 (d) 25 (e) 7</p>
11.	Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention)	Strengthened implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention	<p>Increased number of reports from countries indicating progress in implementing the Convention in five key provisions:</p> <p>(a) Intensity of capacity development in non-Parties for the Industrial Accidents Convention (average participant-days per non-Party);</p> <p>(b) Intensity of capacity development in Parties for the Industrial Accidents Convention (average participant-days per Party)⁷;</p> <p>(c) Identification of hazardous activities through training sessions;</p> <p>(d) Prevention – application and strengthening of preventive measures at hazardous activities through capacity building sessions;</p> <p>(t) Notification of industrial accidents using the Industrial Accidents Notification System implemented through training sessions.</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> <u>Baseline biennium 2008–2009:</u> (a) 21 (b) 30 (c) 35 (d) 35 (e) 24 <u>Target biennium 2010–2011:</u> (a) 30 (b) 23 (c) 40 (d) 40 (e) 40</p>

⁷ This indicator follows a similar methodology to that for the indicator measuring the intensity of capacity development in non-Parties (refer to annex I of this document). The projected value of the indicator for biennium 2010-2011 is lower than its baseline value. This is because the number of Parties, the indicator's divisor, is growing; at the same time, Parties are continually improving their implementation and capacity-building for Parties, the indicator's dividend, is therefore either being maintained or even decreased. Meanwhile, capacity-building for non-Parties is being intensified.

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

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